

Arab League to hold meeting at PNA call

CAIRO (R) — The Arab League will hold an extraordinary meeting in Cairo Tuesday in response to a Palestinian National Authority (PNA) call to discuss the crisis in Middle East peacemaking, a senior Palestinian official said Sunday. The meeting will definitely be held Tuesday, PNA official Mohammad Subeith told Reuters. Arab League officials were not immediately available for comments. The request comes after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet suspended peace talks with the PNA and demanded a crack down on Islamist militants suspected of carrying out a double suicide bombing in a Jerusalem market Wednesday that killed 15 people and wounded 170.

Jordan Times

Amman, Jordan — Daily newspaper published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية تنشر في عمان من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الرابطة

Qatar to send out invitations for MENA summit on September 1

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar is to send out invitations for the Arab-Israeli economic summit on September 1, going ahead with the project despite the latest crisis in the Middle East peace process, an official said Sunday. The official, asking not to be named, said preparations were advancing as scheduled for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit which Doha is to host between November 16-18. Several Arab countries, notably Syria and Saudi Arabia, have been pressing Qatar to call off or at least postpone the conference because of Israel's hardline stand on the peace process.

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King receives message from Yemeni president

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on bilateral ties and developments in the region. The message was delivered by the visiting Speaker of the Yemeni Consultative Council Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani. The meeting was attended by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Zeid Rulai and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh. Mr. Abdul Ghani arrived here at the head of a parliamentary delegation on a four-day visit to Jordan in response to an invitation extended by Mr. Rifai.

Israel backs off threat to jam Palestinian radio

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli government has backed down from a threat to jam radio broadcasts by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in retaliation for a deadly double suicide bombing last week by Islamist militants, officials said Sunday. A spokesman at the communications ministry said it had been decided that an effort to silence the PNA's official Voice of Palestine radio would have been too costly and technically complicated. The government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered the radio broadcasts jammed as part of a series of retaliatory measures following the double suicide bombing in Jerusalem Wednesday which left 15 people dead and some 150 wounded.

Israel destroys Palestinian home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli army Sunday demolished a Palestinian home outside Jerusalem which it said was built without proper authorization, witnesses said. Army bulldozers razed the structure located in Al Ram, north of Jerusalem, shortly before the family which built the house was scheduled to move in. Palestinian sources said. Israeli military spokesman Peter Lerner said the house was torn down as part of Israel's long-standing policy of preventing construction of illegal buildings by Palestinians. Palestinians complain that they are virtually forced to build illegally since formal requests for construction permits are rarely approved by the Israeli authorities.

Israel's Levy to visit Egypt on Tuesday

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will go to Egypt Tuesday for talks on ending a Middle East peacemaking crisis that deepened with a suicide bombing in a Jerusalem street market. Ministry spokesman Aviv Shir-On Sunday said Mr. Levy was invited by his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa for Tuesday and would apparently also meet President Hosni Mubarak. He said the meetings could take place in Alexandria. They would discuss Middle East peacemaking, Mr. Shir-On said, adding, "obviously with the attack and all that has to do with it, it increases the need to speak."

King voices deep concern over crisis and calls upon all to work for peace

King says PNA doing every possible effort to prevent incidents Knesset member says President Arafat in Amman today and King willing to visit Israel and territories

By Tareq Ayyoub
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday voiced deep concern over the current situation in the region and called upon all parties to exert utmost efforts to help overcome difficulties in peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis.

In an interview with Israeli TV, King Hussein said that it is the right time for all those who believe in peace to intensify their efforts and not to "leave it for a minority here and there to deprive the future generations of reaping the fruits of peace."

King Hussein described last week's blasts in Jerusalem as very painful and said he believes the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is doing every possible effort to prevent such incidents.

He pointed out that the entire peace process and the peace march will be discussed during his imminent meetings with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

Earlier Sunday, the King told a visiting group of Israeli lawmakers that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will be in Jordan today and that he is ready to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas to help ease tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis following last Wednesday's double suicide bombing in Jerusalem, said a member of the group.

"The King told us that President Yasser Arafat will visit Jordan on Monday to hold talks on ways to overcome the logjam in talks with Israel," said Saleh Tarif, an Israeli Arab Labour member of parliament and head of the Internal Affairs Committee at the Israeli Knesset, following a meeting with the King.

Asked whether he intends to embark on any reconciliation efforts between the Palestinians and the Israelis, similar to what he did early this year, King Hussein said: "I am always ready to do this."

The Israeli lawmaker, who headed a 14-man delegation representing most of the Israeli political parties, said the King told his group that "he is ready to visit Israel and the Palestinian self-rule areas in a bid to resolve the deadlock."

The King said that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak is also making every possible



A Palestinian woman Sunday leads a chant as she joins a march by Palestinian children demanding a lifting of the Israeli-imposed closure on the West Bank which has been in effect since last Wednesday's twin suicide bombings in a Jerusalem market (Reuters photo)

effort to reconcile positions.

"I believe we all, in our various positions, including the United States, have to reconsider our positions and to move quickly with complete resolve and determination to rectify the situation," the King said to the Israeli television.

King Hussein voiced hope that Dennis Ross' forthcoming visit to the region will bear fruit.

"I hope this issue will be dealt with at the highest level of responsibility in the United States," the King said.

Following the suicide bombings in a Jerusalem market, which left 13 Israelis dead and 150 injured, Israel clamped down on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, preventing Palestinians from moving between cities and towns and thus causing them hardship.

The visiting Israeli MKs asked the King during their meeting with him at the Royal Court Sunday "to intervene to dissolve the worsening deadlock."

"We believe that the King can do much to ease the tension and bring the two sides together," Mr. Tarif told the Jordan Times later Sunday.

"His Majesty told us that contacts are being exerted also with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and I think the King will intervene to bring things back into normal," Mr. Tarif added.

Since the Jerusalem blasts, His Majesty has exerted extensive efforts to avoid any

escalation in tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis, amid Israeli threats to reoccupy the Palestinian self-rule areas.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh met with the European Union (EU) ambassadors to Jordan and delivered messages from the King to the leaders of their respective countries.

Dr. Tarawneh's meeting was meant to brief the envoys on the "dangerous developments" that occurred recently.

Mr. Tarif said that intensive efforts should be exerted from the PNA to put an end to "terrorist attacks" against Israel, but he emphasized also that a "political change in Israel" is necessary.

"We believe that the armed attacks against Israel provide opportunities to Israeli hardliners who want to wreck the peace process," Mr. Tarif noted.

"But I think the best thing to bring peace back on tracks is to change the present Israeli government," Mr. Tarif said, following his meeting with King Hussein.

Mr. Tarif said that he will meet with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and Dr. Tarawneh.

Among their talks with Jordanian officials during their two-day visit, the Israeli MKs will discuss security and economic matters, delays in granting visas to Jordanians, problems facing the transport of Jordanian-made goods to Israel and the Palestine self-

rule areas, and prospects for joint ventures.

"While we were waiting at King Hussein Bridge, we saw the difficulties which face the trucks loaded with Jordanian goods. We have to put an end to this problem," Mr. Tarif said.

According to the Israeli MK, the group will take up issues related to environmental problems, specifically, the impact of industrial projects near the Jordan River on the nature of the area.

"We will talk about ways to make water resources available to Jordan in line with the agreements signed between the two countries, taking in consideration the water needs of the Kingdom," Mr. Tarif said.

The arrival of the delegation was delayed for three hours when a member of the Israeli team insisted on being accompanied by his armed bodyguards.

Jordanian officials at King Hussein Bridge refused to allow the Israeli guards to enter Jordan with their guns. The dispute was resolved when the Israeli delegation agreed to be accompanied by armed Jordanian officers.

The spokesman of the Israeli embassy, Roey Gilad, told the Jordan Times that the problem was sorted out and the delegation travelled into Amman.

The Israeli delegation includes three Israeli-Arab MKs and 11 Jewish MKs, who represent most of the Israeli political parties.

Crown Prince urges progress in peace to prevent violence

AMMAN (R) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has urged Israel and the Palestinians not to break peace talks after a deadly double suicide attack in Jerusalem, saying they must make tangible progress to avoid further violence.

Describing the explosions that tore through a Jewish market Wednesday killing 13 people and the two bombers as the latest round in a "bad nightmare" of bloodshed, the Crown Prince said the two sides must tackle "day-to-day" living issues "to improve the status of ordinary Palestinians."

"Engagement between the core countries to the peace-making exercise is the only option," the Crown Prince said in an interview with Reuters Saturday.

"No progress effectively means hurting people's basic interests and investing in new generations of suicide bombers and a new wave of fanaticism."

Israel suspended talks with the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) after the bombing and closed off the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Acting Minister of Information Nasser Lawzi told reporters after a Cabinet meeting Saturday which mainly focused on the crisis in peace talks that the closure could only result in more violence.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Fayez Tarawneh also criticized Israel for its reaction to the bombing, saying it was critical that it perceived the PNA as a partner and not an enemy.

Prince Hassan said he felt deep frustration after Wednesday's bombing in Jerusalem.

"You have warned and warned against the possibility of acts of violence and loss of life. And yet somehow, like a bad nightmare, you have to live through them," he said.

Four months ago the Crown Prince visited the north Jordanian border territory of Baqoura after a Jordanian soldier shot dead seven Israeli girls on a school trip to the area.

"When I went to that site I made it clear that if you accept that violence is the norm then escalation would include Israeli violence on the one side and Arab violence on the other," he said.

"It is our responsibility, committed to the peace process... to maintain the moderate middle ground."

Prince Hassan said Israel's programme of building Jewish settlements on Arab land was "diminishing the chances of any form of political breakthrough" in talks with Palestinians.

"We have made our position very clear, that settlements are null and void in legal terms," he said.

But he said practical issues like improving trade and opening Palestinian air and sea ports in Gaza should not be held to ransom by an impasse over longer-term arguments on Palestinian nationhood, refugees, borders and water rights.

"[There are] so many day-to-day living issues," Prince Hassan said. "I hope some editing can be done between the heavy, lasting and permanent issues which go way beyond the next few months and the next few years, and getting down to a full engagement for resolution of the day-to-day issues."

Palestinians appeal to U.N. against latest Israeli closure

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has asked the U.N. to help force Israel to lift reprisal measures imposed after a double suicide bombing last week in Jerusalem by suspected Islamist militants, official sources said Sunday.

Mr. Arafat wrote to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan Saturday asking him "to do everything possible to force Israel to halt collective punishment against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian [National] Authority," said the official Palestinian news agency Wafa.

Mr. Arafat accused Israel of "declaring war" on the Palestinians by sealing the borders of the Palestinian territories and blockading Palestinian National Authority (PNA) controlled towns following the suicide attacks Wednesday which killed 13 Israelis and wounded about 150.

Mr. Arafat said the reprisal measures were all the more unjustified in that Israeli investigators were not even certain the suicide bombers were Palestinians.

Israeli Police Chief Assaf Hefetz said on Israel Radio Sunday that the two suicide bombers may have come from abroad and not from the Palestinian areas as initially believed.

The Israeli newspaper Yediot Ahronot quoted other Israeli officials Sunday as saying that the bombers may have been sent by the Lebanese Shiite movement Hizbollah, which is battling Israel's occupation of a buffer zone in southern Lebanon.

After Wednesday's bombing, Israel also called off a planned resumption of peace negotiations with the Palestinians which had been suspended since March, mostly due to a dispute over Israeli home building in disputed areas.

U.S. mediator Dennis Ross is due to visit the region later this week in a bid to defuse the crisis and bring the two sides back to the negotiating table.

Asked by reporters Sunday about Mr. Ross' mission, Mr. Arafat said he hoped the U.S. envoy "can push the peace process forward and bring about implementation of agreements" already signed with Israel.

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U.S. speaker backs Israel on military action inside self-rule area, attacks Arafat and PNA

WASHINGTON (R) — Republican Speaker Newt Gingrich, one of America's most powerful politicians, gave Israel his backing Sunday to take military action against Palestinian militants and said the U.S. needed a "tougher anti-terrorist strategy."

As Israel braced for the possibility of more suicide bomb attacks ahead of a Sunday deadline by Islamist group Hamas, Mr. Gingrich directed fierce condemnation at President Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian National Authority.

Speaking on Fox Television's "Fox news Sunday" programme, the House of Representatives speaker said Israel had the right to take whatever measures it saw fit to protect its citizens from the atrocities of last week's suicide bomb attacks.

"Israelis have every right to protect themselves, they have every right to go after

Hamas," he said. "The U.S. should come down firmly on the side of protecting innocent citizens and opposing terrorism and flatly let it be known in the Middle East that we will be supportive of steps needed to protect innocent Israelis."

Mr. Gingrich said he backed whatever steps Israel needed to impose to protect its citizens.

"If that includes raids into Palestinian territory, if that includes arresting some of the Palestinian [National] Authority leaders who themselves have engaged in terrorist acts, whatever steps have to be taken ought to be taken and the Palestinian [National] Authority should know it's only going to survive within a framework of security," he said.

He criticized Mr. Arafat for not doing enough to crack down on militants and said Mr. Arafat had lost all credibility in the U.S. Congress as a leader.

"The clear evidence that Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian [National] Authority have not only not stopped terrorism, but bad people in their organisation helping terrorists, the fact that Israelis have been dying and the very fact that Hamas is as bold as it is in new statements, indicates the U.S. needs to be prepared with a new and tougher anti-terrorist strategy for the Middle East," he said.

"[The Clinton] administration is very concerned about what happened and the growing sense of the administration is that the Palestinian [National] Authority is not doing its job," he added.

"Arafat has squandered what was a great opportunity to build genuine peace in the region and now the question is where do we go from here."

Egypt's security court tries 22 'suspected extremists'

CAIRO (AP) — The trial of 22 suspected Islamist extremists who allegedly received training in Afghanistan and Sudan opened Sunday before a state security court.

The militants, many of them university students, are accused of belonging to the outlawed Al Jamaa Al Islamiyah, or the Islamic group, and attempting to incite civil unrest and to attack tourists, police and government officials.

If convicted, they could face the death penalty.

Further hearings were delayed until September 1.

Among the 22 on trial are four being tried in absentia: These include Mustafa Hamza, the militant Islamist group leader whom Egypt charges with masterminding the June 1995 assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia.

Hamza was believed in Sudan at the time, but newspaper reports have said recently he is now believed to have moved to Afghanistan.

Hamza was sentenced to death in absentia in December 1992 for anti-government activities. He also received two other death sen-

Egypt to reopen inquiry into death of Nasser's army chief — relative

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is to reopen the investigation into the death of the commander in chief of its armed forces shortly after the Arabs' defeat by Israel in the 1967 six-day war, his brother said Sunday.

Hassan Amer, the brother of Abdul Hakim Amer, told the government daily Al Massaa that the state prosecutor had agreed to his request for the new investigation.

"The present political climate allows for a fair investigation into the affair so the Egyptian people can learn the truth which has been buried for 30 years and know whether Marshal Amer committed suicide or was indeed murdered," the brother said.

However, a judicial source said the state prosecutor was on holiday and had not yet ruled on whether to reopen the investigation.

The late Marshal Amer, a close friend of then President Gamal Abdul Nasser, resigned four days after Egypt's demoralising defeat in the 1967 war. Two months later he was arrested with two former ministers and 50 officers accused of plotting a coup d'etat.

The authorities announced that the marshal committed suicide 10 days after his arrest. An official inquiry concluded he had taken his own life by drinking poisoned fruit juice.

Several books about the 1967 defeat and Amer have since questioned the official version and suggested that he may have been murdered by the authorities.

tences for attacks on tourists

in 1993 and conspiring to

assassinate Information Minister

Safwat Sherif in 1994.

Earlier, he had served

seven years in jail after con-

viction for a role in the 1981

assassination of President

Anwar Sadat.

The Islamist group has

been blamed for much of the

violence in a five-year cam-

paign aimed at replacing Mr.

Mubarak's secular govern-

ment with strict Islamist rule.

More than 1,100 people have

died in the violence.

The trial opened with the defendants asking to be allowed to take their university exams and to see their families, a request which state security court judge, Salah Eddin Badour, approved.

Egyptian security officials charge that the defendants received extensive training in Afghanistan and Sudan, and then were ordered to return to Egypt to try to topple the government.

Allegedly on their list of targets were tourist boats, policemen, government officials and government installations, according to police officials. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

The police said they had confessions that weapons for the attacks were hidden in mosques in southern Egypt.

While the government has largely crushed the extremists' uprising, jailing thousands of accused militants, some confrontations still occur in the southern provinces of Assiut and Minya.

A separate case involving 97 suspected Jamaa Islamiyah militants is under way in another court.



A policeman orders a woman away from a court cage before the beginning of a trial Wednesday. A state security court case started today trying 22 'militants' on charges of planning to overthrow the government and assassinate police officers, ministers and tourists (Reuters photo)

Efforts under way for return of European envoys to Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Iran and the European Union (EU) are engaged in last-minute efforts to try to get the EU's envoys back to Tehran in time for the new president's swearing-in ceremony Monday, diplomats said Sunday.

They said the efforts aimed at timing the return so that EU ambassadors could attend the oath-taking ceremony of President Mohammad Khatami in parliament.

Mr. Khatami was formally confirmed as president by supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Sunday but efforts for the envoys to attend that ceremony failed.

EU states except for Greece recalled their ambassadors from Tehran after a German court concluded in April that Iran's top leaders had ordered the 1992 assassination of four Iranian Kurdish dissidents in a Berlin restaurant.

Iran is insisting that the German ambassador, Horst Beschmann, should be the last to arrive and has rejected an EU offer that he be the last to step off a plane carrying all the envoys to Tehran, the diplomats said.

"The Iranians are insisting that the German envoy be the last one to arrive. There are still some efforts for tomorrow Monday," an Arab ambassador told Reuters.

Iran's outgoing President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani Saturday indicated that the European ambassadors may return to Tehran but Bonn's envoy must be the last.

Asked to comment on indications by EU countries that they were ready to send their envoys back to Iran, Mr. Rafsanjani said: "That is true. They are now ready to return since the leader of the revolu-

Iran to make movie on dispute with Germany

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran is to make a movie about the story that sparked a diplomatic row with Germany over charges that Tehran ordered the assassination of Kurdish opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant, reports said Sunday.

The ministry of culture and Islamic affairs has approved the film's scenario, newspapers reported here. Pre-production has been completed and filming is to begin at the end of August.

The film begins with the discovery of radioactive materials at the home of an Iranian named Farhad Raisi, the papers said, adding that story will "lift the veil on the secrets of this international plot."

A dispute erupted between Iran and the European Union (EU) following a German court verdict of April 10 implicating Tehran in the 1992 murder of four Kurdish dissidents in the Mykonos Restaurant in Berlin.

Following the court ruling, Tehran and Bonn recalled their ambassadors and each expelled four diplomats. Other EU members also recalled their ambassadors.

Outgoing Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said Saturday that all of the EU's ambassadors could return to Tehran except for Germany's.

from EU capitals.

But when the EU countries later decided to send their ambassadors back to Tehran, Ayatollah Khamenei said the German ambassador was not welcome in Tehran.

The EU sent a delegation to Tehran in May for talks with officials on the strained relations.

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Asked to comment on indications by EU countries that they were ready to send their envoys back to Iran, Mr. Rafsanjani said: "That is true. They are now ready to return since the leader of the revolu-

tion [Khamenei] said that they can do so. Germany must return after everyone else."

He said the European states wanted to return together but that Iran would deal with each country separately.

"You must sort yourself out. If you wish to work with Iran, you should not resort to such ploys," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

"The [European] countries" thought that we will retreat in the face of this pressure and make concessions, but they realised that Iran is far stronger than to be frightened by such ploys," he said.

"However, this has not ended yet. The issue can go on, but eventually the Europeans must accept that they have made a mistake," he added.

U.N. trade monitors to be posted on Iraq's border with Syria

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. monitors are to be posted on the Iraqi border with Syria, a new fourth passage for imports to Iraq under the oil-for-food accord, a U.N. source confirmed here Sunday.

The U.N. Sanctions Committee approved Iraq's request to bring in imports of food and medicine from Syria Friday.

U.N. monitors, from the London-based insurers Lloyd's, are to be stationed soon at the border post of Al-Walid, facing Al Tanaf on the Syrian side, as is already the case on Iraq's borders with Jordan and Turkey, the source told Agence France Presse.

The other passage for imports of humanitarian supplies is the southern Iraqi port of Umm Qasr on the Gulf.

The Syrian-Iraqi border was opened in June, after 15 years of closure, following a rapprochement between Damascus and Baghdad which have since signed trade accords.

Iraq has been under a tight U.N. embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. But it started limited exports of oil in December, under the oil-for-food accord, to finance humanitarian imports under U.N. supervision.

Commerce Minister Mohammad Mahdi Saleh announced Sunday that Iraq will take part in the Damascus international fair in September for the first time since 1982.

Syria is to participate in the Baghdad fair the next month.

Lawyer wants Hebrew to be taught in Egyptian schools

DAMANHUR (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer famous for fighting outlandish cases, including one against the British queen, has filed a new suit demanding that Hebrew be taught in schools and universities in the Arab country.

"Although the Jews continue to fight Islam and the Arabs we must learn their language to avoid being tricked by them," Mustafa Raslan told Agence France Presse from his home in Damanhur, 190 kilometres north of Cairo.

Mr. Raslan filed his suit with the Administrative Court in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria demanding that the ministers of education and higher learning, Hussein Kamal Bahaeddin and Mufid Shehab, order the teaching of Hebrew in Egyptian schools and universities.

He based his request on a Hadith (saying of the Prophet Mohammad) which he said requires Muslims to learn foreign languages.

The court is set to examine Mr. Raslan's request on October 15.

Over the recent years Mr. Raslan has gripped the imagination and interest of his Egyptian compatriots with a series of daring law-

suits, all of which are still being debated.

Mr. Raslan demanded that Queen Elizabeth II return to Egypt the Rosetta Stone, now at the British museum, which helped Frenchman Jean-Francois Champollion decipher Egyptian hieroglyphics.

He also filed suit against Britain, France and Germany demanding they clear mines left over from World War II in northwestern Egypt and sought legal action against Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir to force him to hand over \$100 million in damages after the 1995 attempt to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Sudan was implicated in the aborted assassination bid.

But most of Mr. Raslan's lawsuits are aimed against Israelis.

At the beginning of July, Mr. Raslan filed a lawsuit in an Egyptian court against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demanding that Israel publish one billion Korans to make up for an insulting anti-Islamic poster plastered up in the West Bank town of Hebron by a Jewish extremist.

His most famous case has been running since

October 14, 1995.

Since then Mr. Raslan has been trying to wrest a court decision backing his demand for the transfer to Israel of the demolition of the tomb of Rabbi Yaacov Abu Hatzi-ra, who is buried near Damanhur.

"Something must be done before the mausoleum becomes another wailing wall," Mr. Raslan said.

Every year thousands of Jews visit Rabbi Yaacov's tomb to commemorate his death and pray by his graveside, staunchly convinced that the dead cleric had supernatural powers and could make their wishes come true.

A Damanhur court is expected to hold a hearing on September 2 amid reports that Abu Hasirah was in fact a Muslim.

According to Jewish and Muslim villagers, Abu Hasirah was born in 1808 in Taffilalet, southeast Morocco, and his real name was Elbaz.

He adopted the name Abu Hasirah (father of the carpet) because he once sat on a flying carpet which whisked him to the promised land of Palestine after the captain of a ship refused to take him there, his followers say.

Kuwait says Iraq must implement sanctions

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Sunday marked the August 2 anniversary of Iraq's occupation by saying Iraq must be allowed to "manoeuvre out of" U.N. resolutions applied after the 1990 invasion.

Kuwait hailed "friendly countries' efforts to thwart Iraq's attempts to manoeuvre out of Security Council resolutions," the Kuwait cabinet said in a statement.

"Iraq's implementation of these resolutions... would open the way for Iraq to lift the embargo imposed against it, and to return to the civilised world community."

Since the invasion Baghdad has been under U.N. sanctions barring Iraqi oil exports. But in December the world body allowed Iraq to sell \$2 billion worth of oil over six months on a renewable basis to buy food and medicine.

Iraq seized Kuwait for seven months before a U.S.-led coalition ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait in February 1991 after a six-week offensive.

Before the sanctions can be fully lifted Iraq has to convince the U.N. that it has destroyed all its weapons of mass destruction and account for about 600 Kuwaitis missing since the occupation.

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:10Cartoons
15:00Gillette Sports Special
15:30Deep Water Haven
16:00Animal Show
16:30Ocean Girl
17:15French Programmes
19:00News in French
19:30News Headline
19:35Neighbours
20:00Comedy — Murphy Brown
20:30Babylon 5
21:10Highlander
22:00News in English
22:35Emergency Room
23:15Homicide

PRAYER TIMES

04:20Fajr
05:47(Sunrise) Duha
12:42Dhuhr
16:22Asr
19:36Maghreb
21:03Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
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St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
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Armenian Orthodox Church
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151.

Amman International Church
Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.
614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology

Moderate summer weather con-

ditions will prevail with clouds

appearing at low altitudes and

winds northwesterly moderate to

active. In Aqaba, winds will be

northerly moderate to active and

seas calm.

Min/Max temp.

Amman18/29

Aqaba25/37

Deserts17/33

Jordan Valley24/37

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 29, Aqaba 38 Humidity

readings: Amman 49 per cent,

Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Khalil Al Tisluq757253

Dr. Bahjat Bader832642

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim830432

Dr. Wafiq Qaddumi893542

Firas pharmacy661912

Ferdows pharmacy778336

Al Asema pharmacy637055

Natroukh pharmacy623672

Al Salam pharmacy636730

Yacoub pharmacy644945

Shmeisani pharmacy637660

Najih pharmacy847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammeh250080

Al Quds pharmacy(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 985019

Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre637111

Civil Defence Department661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue

Centre630341

Civil Defence Emergency199

Rescue Police192.621111.637777

Fire Brigade617101

Blood Bank775121

Highway Police843402

Traffic Police896390

Public Security Dept.630321

Hotel Complaints605800

Price Complaints661176

Water & Sewerage Complaints897467

Amman Municipality Complaints

.....787111

Telephone Information (directory

assistance)121

Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone

Repairs623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs661101

Jordan Television773111

Radio Jordan774111

Water Authority680100

J. Electricity Authority815615

Electric Power Co.636381

RJ Flight Information08-53200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre813813/32

Khalid Maternity644281/6

Akileh Maternity642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity642362

Malhas, J. Amman636140

Palestine, Shmeisani607071

Shmeisani Hospital669131

University Hospital845845

Al-Muasher Hospital667277/9

The Islamic, Abdali666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3

Al-Bashir775111/26

Army, Marka891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital602240/50

Amal Hospital674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and

Special Surgery865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital

.....(09)983323

Women candidates demonstrate determination to reach Parliament

By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Four women, who announced their candidacy for Parliament, Sunday stated that nothing would stop them from running for office and pursuing better representation for women in the Lower House.

In an open dialogue, entitled "Opinions about elections," held at the Business and Professional Women's Club (BPWC) premises, candidates Fatmeh Obeidat, Nadia Bushnaq, Emily Nafaa and Fatmeh Hassounah spoke of their previous electoral experiences as well as their plans for the upcoming elections.

"We must challenge everyone and face difficulties if we wish to succeed," said Ms. Obeidat, who is running for the Bani Kanafeh district in Ramtha.

The reason proffered by Ms. Obeidat to run for office was to penetrate the tribal system which, she stated, only gives authority to men to take leading roles.

"Why is there representation for men and not women?" she asked.

"It is for this reason that I decided to sacrifice everything, cross the tribal barrier and run for elections," Ms. Obeidat, a researcher, said.

She added that, since announcing her decision to run for elections, "many of my tribal members visited me and attempted to persuade me to abandon this idea."

"We should not be followers to men, but rather we should be able to choose the right person for the right place," she asserted.

Ms. Obeidat criticised the current Parliament, charging that none of the candidates have fulfilled their promises towards their societies.

"Many people are starving and when they approach their deputies for support, the doors are always closed in their face," she said. "We must do something as current deputies are not willing to act."

Ms. Nafaa, who is running for the Amman Third District, said she had been preparing for the upcoming elections for the past 42 years.

"Women have been absent from political life, and we should be involved in helping as many women as possible reach Parliament," she stated. "We must strengthen our ranks to fight social problems such as poverty, unemployment, and (claim our) rights."

"I have struggled in politics for so long to reach the day in which, if I do win, I can be an active parliamentarian and not simply a number," she said.

Ms. Obeidat described her main priority as the amendment or nullification of all legislation which discriminates against women in Jordan.

Ms. Nafaa stated that, if she succeeds, she intends to hold an annual public gathering in order that her constituents might question her about her performance, whether she had fulfilled her promises towards the people, and be informed regarding political developments.

Candidate Bushnaq, who unsuccessfully ran for the 1993 elections for one of the four Muslim seats in Zarqa, said that her previous experience would not dissuade her from making a second attempt.

"In the 1993 elections, I received several phone calls from unidentified people advising me not to run for a Muslim seat as I do not wear a veil," she explained. "Others spread rumours that my husband killed me and cut me into pieces for my decision to run in the elections."

Ms. Bushnaq maintained that she would not desist, "and even if I lose, I believe that I have accomplished my mission (to demonstrate) that women are present and I will pave the way for other women to run for the Lower House."

Ms. Hassounah, a Sahab resident running for the Amman Fourth District, asserted that her supporters were greater in number than her opponents.

"Although some groups approached me asking me to withdraw as, they said, my district (Sahab) was not ready for a woman candidate, many were supportive," she said.

She asserted that she considered running for Parliament as a national and religious duty, and "my aim is to

fight for women's rights and for social justice."

As a social researcher, she maintained, "I encountered many problems especially from women who were abused by their husbands but had no place to turn."

"I also noticed much corruption and social disintegration, and many issues such as unemployment, soaring prices, and a deteriorating economic situation — issues that I will fight once I reach the House," she said.

The participants described many women as having been deterred from running for elections for financial reasons, discrimination and tribalism.

These women criticised the one-person, one-vote system, which they stated would lessen women's chances of reaching Parliament.

Out of the three women who ran for the 1993 elections, only one woman, Tujan Faisal, managed to secure enough votes to become the first Jordanian woman to reach the Lower House.

The women in yesterday's session concluded by stating that they considered their candidacy as a win "even if we lose," as they challenged both themselves and the general society.

BPWC President Hind Abdul Jaber stressed that the club's top priority is to work on increasing women's participation in social, political and economic arenas.

"We aim at rehabilitating, training and elevating women's awareness for better participation in all fields of life, and to enable women to face greater challenges," Ms. Abdul Jaber maintained.

In order to accomplish these goals, she stated, the BPWC, the European Union and the Canadian Embassy are cooperating in organising several activities to help raise women's awareness for the upcoming elections.

Such activities, she asserted, include organising lectures, seminars, and training courses, "in order to activate women's participation in political and democratic life."

"We expect that approximately 40,000 women will benefit from such programmes," Ms. Abdul Jaber said.

'Educational plan to consider new trends'

AMMAN (Petra) — The second five-year educational plan in Jordan will consider new trends for developing vocational training in Jordanian schools and community colleges as the country concentrates increased efforts on improving industry, Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri stated Sunday.

Addressing the opening session of a week-long seminar on the manufacture of industrial moulds and casts, the minister asserted that global economic and political developments require new policies and better human resources training programmes as well as the transfer of modern technology and skills.

Absorbing modern technology is an essential step for improving industry in Jordan and the Arab World, according to Dr. Masri.

He voiced appreciation to the Arab Union for Technical Education and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) which groups organised the meeting.

RSS President Said Alloush informed the seminar that human resources training and development lies at the heart of industrial development and is instrumental in achieving comprehensive development in the Arab World.



Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri describes second five-year plan as considering new trends for developing vocational training in Jordanian schools and community colleges (Petra photo)

The RSS has been cooperating with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in training personnel and transferring modern technology to the Kingdom, Dr. Alloush said.

The RSS has been contributing towards the development of Jordanian industry, he added.

The society is planning to establish a regional training centre on renewable energy,

while running three-year programmes for training engineers and technicians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the maintenance of medical equipment, according to Dr. Alloush.

The RSS has also been pursuing research in building, engineering, mechanical engineering, computers, electronic engineering and industrial chemistry

through its 35 laboratories, he added.

This seminar will orient participants on the use of computers in the manufacture of casts and moulds as well as modern technology used in welding, plumbing and the plastics industry.

A total of 30 engineers from Jordan, Libya, Syria, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine and Yemen are participating in the seminar.

'Iraq to increase imports of Jordanian goods'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraq Sunday announced its intention to increase imports of Jordanian goods within the framework of the U.N.-Iraq oil-for-food accord.

It will also increase the volume of imports coming to Iraqi markets via the port of Aqaba.

Minister of Industry and Trade Hani Mulki made the announcement following a meeting with his visiting Iraqi counterpart Mohammad Mahdi Saleh.

Mr. Saleh will this week

meet with representatives of Jordanian industries which manufacture pharmaceuticals, detergent and cooking oil to discuss the volume of exports to Iraq while exploring prospects for exporting other items permitted by the U.N. sanctions committee.

Iraq has decided to replace a clause in the existing bilateral trade protocol, stipulating \$11 million worth of services to goods from Jordan, a step which Dr. Mulki wel-

comed to boost Jordan's exports to Iraqi markets.

Last January, Jordanian and Iraqi officials signed a trade protocol in Baghdad, raising the volume of goods imported from the Kingdom to \$225 million, up from \$200 million last year.

Iraq also decided to raise the amount of oil supplied without cost to Jordan from \$250 million worth last year to \$300 million in 1997.

According to Dr. Saleh, the reduction of tariffs on

loading and unloading of goods at the port of Aqaba will encourage the Iraqis to import more goods through that port.

Dr. Saleh stated that the Iraqi government plans to increase trade and economic ties with Jordan.

He declined to give specific figures.

Detailed discussions will be held between Iraqi and Jordanian officials finalise the matter, he said.

Premier returns from Malaysia, UAE

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali returned to Amman Sunday from visits to Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He described talks in Kuala Lumpur as resulting in initial cooperation agreements between the national air carrier of Jordan and Malaysia.

Malaysian investments in the Kingdom and the secondment of thousands of Jordanian physicians to work in Malaysian hospitals.

The two countries are linked through economic and cultural ties, and nearly 2,500 Malaysian students are currently studying in Jordanian universities, while Jordanian teachers are employed in the Malaysian International Islamic University, according to Dr. Majali.

The two sides also agreed that Jordan would serve as a platform for promoting Malaysian trade in the Middle East and that Malaysia will provide the same service for Jordan in Asia.

Dr. Majali affirmed that he examined Malaysian policies in privatising government organisations and entered into bilateral discussions with government officials.

The prime minister added that meetings also covered the Middle East peace process and obstacles laid



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali details the outcomes of recent trips to Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates (Petra photo)

by Israel in that regard.

He stressed that Jordan is determined to follow the path of peace.

Referring to suicidal bomb attacks in Jerusalem, Dr. Majali stated that violence breeds violence and voiced hope that the peace process will be resumed despite present difficulties.

Jordan was the only Arab state to participate in the meetings, according to the prime minister.

These were attended by 400 delegates from major

firms and organisations, including 20 prime ministers who discussed a range of issues related to privatisation and the role of the private sector, he added.

The premier confirmed that he met with UAE officials and discussed the peace process as well as joint investment projects.

Dr. Majali was quoted by the UAE news agency as accusing the Israeli government of attempting to secure peace without allowing the Palestinians their

legitimate rights.

He urged those countries which have been supporting Israeli policies to help remove obstacles in the path of peace.

Dr. Majali condemned recent Israeli measures against the Palestinians, taken in the wake of suicide attacks in Jerusalem, describing them as counterproductive.

The premier was accompanied on the trip by ministers of finance and health and medical care.

Roads to be constructed in refugee camp

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Palestinian Affairs Sunday announced the commencement of work on the construction of roads and alleys within the Prince Hassan District Refugee Camp in East Amman.

It will cover an area of 2,000 square metres and is estimated to cost JD 10,000.

This project, approved by Department Director Ibrahim Tarshishi, is one of a series of projects to be carried out at the following Palestinian refugee camps: Al Wihdat, Al Hussein, Al Talibeh, Hinnin, Zarqa, Jerash, Irbid, and Baqaa at an overall cost of JD 24,000.

Work on these road projects will be completed by the end of this year, according to the announcement.

The department is currently implementing a number of other projects, at the estimated cost of JD 140,000.

These projects include linking homes to the main sewage system in the Irbid camp, building pavements at Sukhneh town and roads within the Sukhneh camp, the announcement said.

The projects also include the maintenance of a main building housing a local committee in charge of the implementation of services at Prince Hassan District Camp, the construction of a vegetable market in Baqaa, and the opening of 5,000 square metres of roads at Hinnin Camp.

According to the department, this year, several service projects have been com-

pleted in all of the Kingdom's refugee camps at the overall cost of JD 130,000.

Projects currently being executed in the Kingdom's 13 refugee camps are included in an annual plan which the department is implementing in conjunction with the local camps' services committees in order to raise the standard of living for the camps' residents and improve infrastructure services for the refugees.

Earlier this year, the government announced a programme for the improvement of the infrastructure services in underprivileged districts and the Palestinian refugee camps in the Kingdom at the overall cost of JD 400 million to be accomplished over several years.

Date, venue announced for international committee in defence of Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan National Committee to Defend Jerusalem yesterday announced a new date and venue for an international conference in "defence of Jerusalem."

Committee Spokesperson Dr. Ishaq Farhan said that the conference, originally scheduled for June 25, will be hosted at the Palace of Culture on Aug. 20-21.

In mid-May, opposition parties secured government approval to hold the conference, which is intended to focus on ways to protect Jerusalem from Israeli settlement plans and formulate a popular strategy to defend the holy city, but the conference was postponed for "logistical reasons", Dr. Farhan said.

The new date, he said, coincides with the burning of Al Aqsa Mosque in 1968 by an Israeli extremist.

In a statement to the press, Dr. Farhan described the event as a "popular conference" through which participants will adopt a strategy to confront Israelis.

The conference is based on several premises, he said, among which are: that agreements signed by Arab governments with Israel do not represent or respond to Arab Islamic national interests and are therefore non-binding; that the conference participants reject the abandonment of Jerusalem and reject any recognition of Israeli rule over the city; and that the conference will serve as "nucleus" for an Arab Islamic and international front to confront the deteriorating situation in Jerusalem.

More than 2,000 participants from Jordan and Palestine have been invited, and Dr. Farhan announced Sunday that 100 participants from the Arab World and 200 from the international community would

be participating.

In May, sources told the Jordan Times that the government would allow foreign participants to attend "without exception," including some who previously had been denied entry to the Kingdom.

Dr. Farhan maintained that he had no further details on these participants.

Invited to the conference include: Coptic Pope Shenouda II, the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, former Egyptian Chief of Staff Saad Al Din Shadi, former Lebanese Prime Minister Saleem Hoss, former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella, and others.

The preparatory committee will submit two documents at the conference, one of which is a strategy of popular action, and another which is a "charter on Jerusalem," expected to be circulated to Islamic communities worldwide for signature.

Al Bashir designated as 'baby friendly hospital'

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Social Development and Acting Minister of Health and Medical Care Mohammad Khair Mansur Sunday opened a special ceremony at Al Bashir Hospital to designate the institution as a Baby-Friendly Hospital (BFH).

Addressing the audience, Dr. Mansur stressed the importance of breast feeding as the sacred right of every child.

He noted that breast feeding is approved by both Islamic law and international conventions.

The minister warned of adverse psychological, physical and social consequences, resulting from denying breast feeding practices to infants.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Area Representative Doris Alopaeus Stahl lauded the close cooperation between the Ministry of Health and Medical Care and UNICEF, describing the success of this experience as the outcome of fruitful cooperation.

Ms. Stahl affirmed that the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) aims to promote and encourage breast feeding as well as promote public awareness regarding its importance.

Sunday's celebration is part of a week-long programme of activities, launched last Friday by the Ministry of Health and Medical Care in cooperation with UNICEF, to mark International Breast Feeding Week.

The week was initiated by UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO) four years ago to encourage breast feeding and promote awareness among parents, health workers, professionals and the general public as to benefits therein.

Under the initiative, hospitals commit to keep newborn babies with their mothers without separation and encourage mothers to start breast feeding 30 minutes subsequent to delivery.

The hospital is also to teach mothers methods of breast feeding infants. It also calls on hospitals and maternity wards to desist from giving mothers any infant formulas, bottles, pacifiers or soothers.

Three hospitals have heretofore been certified as baby-friendly in Jordan: Al Bashir in Amman, Princess Badia' and Princess Rahma in Irbid.

What's Going On

JERASH FESTIVAL

* Concert by the European Union Baroque Orchestra at the Royal Culture Centre at 8:00 p.m.

* Performance by the Indian Kuchipudi Dance Group at the Artemis Steps at 8:30 p.m.

* Concert by the Iraqi National Band at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Concert by the National Amman University band at the Sound and Light Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

* Play entitled "Salamistan" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m. (to be followed by a musical performance).

* Musical performance by Jordanian and Palestinian bands and an Egyptian circus show at the main square at 7:00 p.m.

* Display of handicrafts and sculptures at Zeus Vault.

LECTURE AND WORKSHOP

* "Tell Safut" by Don Wimmer at the American Center of Oriental Research (Tel. 846-117) at 7:00 p.m.

* Workshop on "The Impact of the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Jordan" at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) at 9:00 a.m.

Cambodian police officer accuses Hun Sen's troops of atrocities

ARANYAPRATHET

(Agencies) — Troops of Cambodian strongman and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen killed the wives and children of units sympathising with the ousted first premier, a policeman who fled to Thailand said Sunday.

The Cambodian policeman and supporter of the ousted First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh, joined some 400 soldiers who have fled to Thailand following moves by Mr. Hun Sen's troops since Thursday to "control the area."

"Hun Sen's troops killed all of the children and wives of Ranariddh's soldiers," Police Captain Sor Mao of Poipet, a trading town opposite this eastern Thai district, told an AFP reporter at the border crossing point.

Capt. Sor Mao, crying and clearly upset, said the strongman's troops had arrested his two children of not more than 10 years of age and executed them in the Poipet market, where they worked as beggars.

On Saturday, a Colonel Saow Tik of the Cambodian 12th army division told reporters his soldiers had brought their families to safety in Thailand, and complained he was not being allowed to return and fight.

Tanee Samakit, chief of Thailand's Koke Soong sub-district, where some 5,000 civilians fled ahead of the

fighting, said Mr. Hun Sen's troops had taken complete control of the area, and that movement was limited by mines.

After the area was swept for mines and Cambodian troops could guarantee their safety the refugees would be returned, he said.

Major Jia Suwan, a Poipet military police officer, told AFP at the border crossing that the 5th Cambodian army, supporting Mr. Hun Sen, had been ordered to clear General Lay Virak's 12th army out of the area.

Gen. Lay Virak had angered Mr. Hun Sen's commanders by sending soldiers to help Prince Ranariddh's military commander, General Nhiek Bun Chhay, he said.

The whereabouts of Gen. Nhiek Bun Chhay and Gen. Lay Virak were not immediately known, but a Thai Interior Ministry official said Saturday Cambodian 12th army units that had not crossed into Thailand had moved north inside Cambodia.

Poipet is about 400 kilometres northwest of the Cambodian capital.

Mr. Hun Sen drove Prince Ranariddh's key supporters out of the government in two days of fighting in Phnom Penh July 5 and 6, and has called a new session of parliament to replace him, with or without those royalist MPs who fled into

exile.

Leaders of the royalist FUNCINPEC party had been on the brink of arranging a peace deal with Khmer Rouge remnants. Mr. Hun Sen has accused Prince Ranariddh of forming an alliance with the dreaded rebels and instigated the fighting as part of a planned coup d'etat.

The last Khmer Rouge hardline faction has since sentenced the notorious Pol Pot — whose 1975-79 regime was held responsible for the deaths of two million Cambodians — to life imprisonment and pledged to abide by the constitution.

Khmer Rouge radio broadcasts continue to reject the government of Mr. Hun Sen, however, linking him with the Vietnamese.

Mr. Hun Sen's former Communist Party was installed after the Vietnamese invasion that drove the Khmer Rouge out of power.

Capt. Sor Mao also accused Mr. Hun Sen of using Vietnamese troops to help him take over the country, claiming he had heard the Vietnamese language being used in Poipet.

No other source has made the allegation. Vietnam withdrew its troops in 1989.

"He (Mr. Hun Sen) is worse than Pol Pot," the policeman said.

U.N. teams in Phnom Penh have uncovered evi-

dence of extrajudicial killings and torture of dozens of royalists.

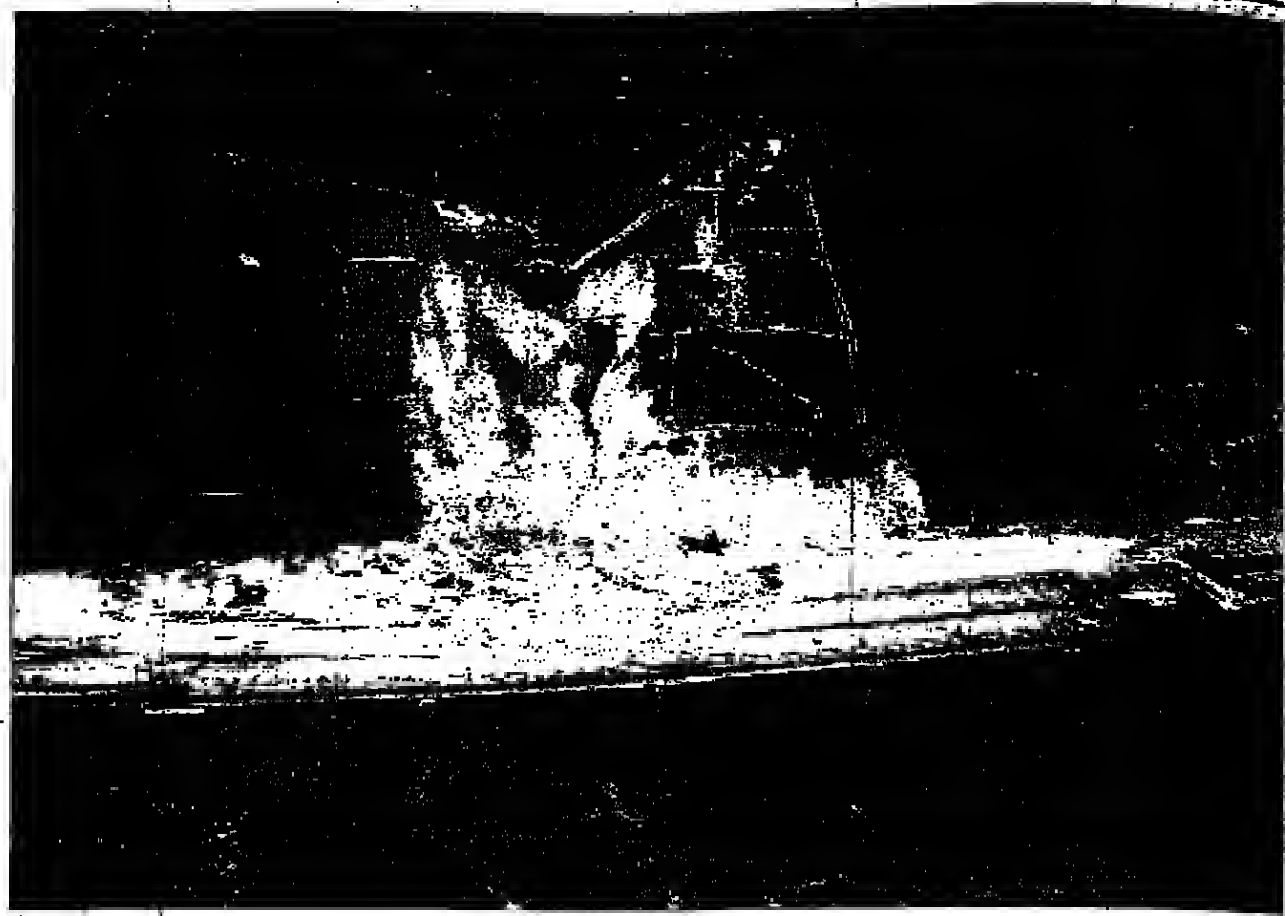
Meanwhile, some 1,300 people, led by hundreds of Buddhist monks and nuns, marched through central Phnom Penh Sunday to urge Cambodia's political leaders to resolve problems without resorting to violence.

The peace march was organised by a prominent Buddhist monk, the venerable Maha Ghosansa, and came four weeks after the city was rocked by two days of battles when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen ousted his senior coalition partner, Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

"We want to see the Cambodian leaders who are arguing calm down and avoid violence," 26-year-old Buddhist monk Peah Savorn told Reuters.

The procession passed without incident. Co-Interior Minister Sar Kheng, a senior member of Mr. Hun Sen's party, joined the march at its conclusion and told reporters it was a significant event and he agreed with the call for peace.

Many foreign aid workers joined the march, and U.S. Ambassador Kenneth Quinn spoke to some participants at the city's Independence Monument where the procession ended and the marchers meditated for three minutes.



Mud slides down onto Ching Cheung Road, a main traffic connection linking east and west Kowloon Peninsula, Sunday after Typhoon Victor hit Hong Kong Saturday. Hong Kong cleaned up Sunday after one of the most powerful typhoons in years slammed into the territory, killing one man and injuring at least 55 others. No injury was reported in the landslide (Reuters photo)

H. Kong starts returning to normal after big storm

HONG KONG (R) — Hong

Kong cleaned up Sunday after one of the most powerful typhoons in years slammed into the territory, killing one man and injuring at least 55 others.

Typhoon Victor left a trail of debris in its wake as it lashed Hong Kong with heavy rains and powerful winds, sending residents scurrying home and turning the busy central district into a virtual ghost town by Saturday evening.

It scored a direct hit on the territory and the number nine typhoon signal, which indicates winds of more than 118 kilometres per hour, was hoisted for the first time since 1983. At one stage Saturday night, an eerie calm descended as the eye of the storm enveloped the territory.

All storm warning signals were lowered by dawn on Sunday as Victor moved

north away from Hong Kong to southern China's Guangdong province. At 11:00 a.m. it was centred 300 kilometres north of the provincial capital and was forecast to move further north, gradually dissipating over land, the Hong Kong Observatory said.

Better weather prompted people to venture outside Sunday, but the streets were a far cry from the usual crowd of shoppers and diners, although many malls and restaurants began to reopen.

One man, Tom Larmour, a 44-year-old Briton, drowned after trying to save two men who were swept into the sea at Stanley on southern Hong Kong island at the height of the typhoon Saturday night.

Witnesses said Larmour, who had been drinking in one of the bars near the sea, jumped into the water to try to rescue the two men but

all three were pounded against a seawall by high waves. The other two were eventually saved.

The storm caused 12 landslides and at least 33 flooding incidents, a government spokeswoman told Reuters Sunday.

Strong winds tore down building scaffolding and signboards and uprooted a number of trees. Floods in parts of the territory forced vehicles and pedestrians to wade through water and inundated many vegetable fields.

Air traffic was still affected Sunday, with some cancellations and delays following major disruptions Saturday that forced hundreds of passengers to spend the night at Kai Tak International Airport.

By dawn Sunday, Victor had affected 322 flights, including cancellations, delays and diversions, the government said in a statement.

The number of disrupted flights Sunday morning was not immediately available.

Land and sea traffic, which had ground to a halt by Saturday night, gradually returned to normal although some services were still suspended or diverted.

Some roads, including the huge Tsing Ma suspension bridge — a major Hong Kong landmark linking Lantau Island to the Kowloon Peninsula — was reopened after being closed Saturday.

But some roads were jammed by container trucks flocking to container terminals which had partially resumed services.

Four people were missing in the neighbouring Chinese town of Shenzhen after the typhoon swept through, local television said Sunday.

North Korea splashed with long-awaited rail fall

SEOUL (AFP) — North Korea was splashed with a long-awaited downpour of rain early Sunday after a two-month heat wave which threatened food crops, reports here said.

Pyeongyang radio stations said the North's western and southern provinces received up to 100 millimetres of rain between Saturday night and Sunday morning. South Korea's official monitor, Naewoo Press, said.

Naewoo quoted Northern broadcasts as forecasting sporadic rain later Sunday in other areas.

The rain followed Pyongyang reports last week that drought damage to food crops was worsening across the famine-stricken North.

In a dispatch Friday, the North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) warned: "Dry field crops in Kangwon, Jagang, South and North Hamgyong provinces and other intermediary and mountainous areas have withered. Roots of rice plants have also begun to rot."

KCNA said there had been no rain for 60 days and that 470,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) of fields had been affected by the drought as of July 30.

It was not clear whether Sunday's rain would help revive some of the affected crops in the North.

July is usually a wet month in North Korea with more than 200 millimetres of rain, and July and September rains usually account for 50 per cent of annual rainfall.

Friday's KCNA report coincided with a warning by the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) in Geneva that a quarter of the crops in North Korea were under threat from the unseasonal drought.

Hundreds of reservoirs and thousands of streams had dried up throughout the country, and tube wells were ineffective because of a lack of underground water, KCNA said.

"The drought could affect up to 25 per cent of the harvest, that is between 700,000 and one million tonnes of food for the population," WFP spokeswoman, Chris-

tiane Berthiaume said. North Korea, battered by devastating floods in 1995 and 1996, was counting on a good harvest this year to ease its food crisis.

Pyeongyang admitted for the first time earlier this year that hunger was costing the lives of children. International organisations have also reported water shortages in the provinces of North and South Hamgyong, near the border with China, where hundreds of people are using buckets to water fields.

"The situation is serious. Even if it rains tomorrow the crops won't be saved. It's too late," Ms. Berthiaume said Friday.

Germany races against clock to save flood-hit dike

HOHENWUTZEN, Germany (R) — Thousands of German soldiers and volunteers raced against the clock Sunday, hoping to prop up a dike along the Oder River long enough for floods to recede.

"We believe we have the situation under control but it remains critical," said a spokesman for the Brandenburg state Interior Ministry.

More than 10,000 soldiers and thousands of aid workers, water rescue teams, volunteer firefighters and villagers have struggled for nearly two weeks to keep dikes along the Oder from bursting.

Brandenburg officials were cautiously optimistic that they could hold back the floods as long as water levels fell, but made clear that the danger of a break in the dam would persist until water levels lowered one and a half metres.

The dikes were so sodden from weeks of rain-induced floods that the chances of the river falling to safe levels before they burst remained small, according to rescue officials.

Germany has escaped the worst of a month of flooding that has killed more than 100 people in Poland and the Czech Republic, but damage



Mud sprays as a soldier fixes a vacuum pipe into the dike of Hohenwutzen to assist in controlling the level of the water in the dike (Reuter photo)

sodden dikes. First divers laid a sheet of plastic six metres deep in the water and 100 metres long to prevent the water from seeping through the dike.

Then they placed a pipe along the 100-metre section of dike most vulnerable to breaking and began sucking water out of the drenched foundations of the dam.

Repair work started on a second line of dikes near Zollbruecke. Private builders delivered tonnes of gravel to build a five-metre wall as a second line of defence which officials hope will stop the flood should the main dike burst.

The last time a break in the dike flooded the Oderbruch region was in 1947 near Reitwein.

The region lies below the level of the river, which presses against twists and turns in the dike as the Oder runs north to the Baltic Sea.

The Oderbruch Basin was created 250 years ago by Frederick the Great of Prussia by draining swamps and redirecting the route of the Oder, gaining a huge valley of arable land.

Around 15,000 people have been evacuated from the region since last week.

As many as 14,000 new Burmese Muslim refugees in Bangladesh

DHAKA (AFP) — A group representing Burmese Muslims who fled alleged persecution in Burma claimed Sunday that more refugees would flow into Bangladesh unless their security could be guaranteed.

The Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) claimed Sunday that up to 14,000 new Burmese Muslims had already crossed the border into Bangladesh since June because of persecution from Burmese security forces and for "economic" reasons.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) put the number of Burmese Muslims, known as Rohingyas, at 7,000, while the Bangladesh government officially puts their numbers at "several thousand."

The UNHCR described the new Rohingyas arrivals as both "economic and political" migrants.

The six-page "Rohingya Sangbad" newsletter's May issue received by AFP Sunday said "between 12,000 and 14,000 entered Bangladesh during the past two months."

"These people fled to Bangladesh after facing a famine forcing them to live in virtual hunger," it said, adding in recent days prices

of essential and food commodities have sky-rocketed. The newsletter said Rohingyas were again fleeing into Bangladesh because of their economic condition and "unlimited torture and repression" by Burma's security forces.

The RSO warned that refugees would continue to flow into Bangladesh unless security of the minority group was ensured in Burma's Arakan state which borders Bangladesh.

"We want Bangladesh to give effective support to the armed struggle of the Rohingyas," the organisation said.

Tension meanwhile continued in one of two refugee camps housing Rohingyas who fled here some five years ago when the alleged persecution began. Some 21,000 Rohingyas living in the camps started demonstrating against forced repatriations.

Last week in Geneva the UNHCR indicated that militant elements in the camps were intimidating others into foregoing food, mentioning several cases where refugees who had queued up for rations were brutally punished.

The repatriation process has been stalled after the

demonstrations.

According to the U.N. refugee agency's estimates, more than 280,000 Rohingyas have fled Burma since 1991 with many of them already returned.

Burma has agreed to take back some 7,500, rejecting the remainder as "non-citizens" but have agreed to review their papers.

The UNHCR is pressing to allow this batch of "stateless" people to remain in Bangladesh but Dhaka has rejected permanent resettlement here, saying they would burden the economy.

"It is the responsibility of the international community... We have told this to UNHCR and explained Bangladesh's constraints," Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said last week.

Muslims from Burma's Arakan state fled to Bangladesh in 1991 to escape repression and human rights violations, a charge denied by the military junta in Rangoon. Most of them were repatriated after a 1991 agreement between Dhaka and Rangoon, followed by a second one in 1993 between the UNHCR and Burmese authorities.

Tory chief: British government petulant, sanctimonious

LONDON (R) — Britain's new Conservative Party leader, William Hague, in bullish mood after a by-election victory, has accused the Labour government of being petulant and sanctimonious.

In a sharp weekend attack on Prime Minister Tony Blair, he said: "There is a high-handedness and intolerance in this government."

The 36-year-old Mr. Hague, elected Conservative leader after his party was crushed by Labour in general elections three months ago following 18 years in power, insisted the badly bruised Tories were fighting back.

Parliament has now gone into summer recess with Labour enjoying a massive majority of 178 seats in the 659-seat lower chamber.

But that did not discourage Mr. Hague from launching a furious broadside against Mr. Blair's first 100 days in power.

"They have developed a sanctimoniousness and a self-righteousness which makes it hard for them to see where they are going wrong," he told the Sunday Telegraph.

"In the end there is always a penalty to be paid for being a control freak in politics and that is what they have become."

Mr. Hague accused Mr. Blair of "acting petulantly" in parliament when queried over the appointment of former businessman Lord David Simon as minister for trade and competitiveness in Europe.

He pressed the prime minister on why Lord Simon, the former chairman of British Petroleum PLC, did not sell shares worth £2 million (\$3.3 million) in the company when he took up the post.

Lord Simon has denied any wrongdoing.

In the first test of voter opinion since the May 1 election, Conservative candidate, John Randall secured a five per cent swing away from Labour to retain the west London seat of Uxbridge in a parliamentary by-election last week.

Mr. Hague, launching salvos against Mr. Blair in the weekend media, said: "The Conservative Party is back in business."

Bosnian 'open city' takes up U.N. carrot for refugee returns

BUSOVACA (AFP) — With refugees blocked all over Bosnia, the central town of Busovaca is taking advantage of a U.N. initiative facilitating aid to towns which take in refugees of any ethnic group.

With its "open cities" scheme, launched in March, the United Nations is hoping to make a start on the intractable problem of returning 1.4 million refugees to areas in which they would be in a minority.

So far the municipalities of Busovaca, Konjic and Vogosca — all within the Muslim-Croat federation — have been recognised as "open" and as such are eligible for international aid. Croat-run Busovaca had a visit this week from Edward Joseph, the head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) for the Mostar region, who was upbeat.

"Busovaca could become a model for the federation and for all of Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said, adding there was "excellent cooperation" between Muslims and Croats, who fought each other in the 1993-94 Muslim-Croat war.

To a backdrop of noisy house repairs, UNHCR official, Haeko Kuwahara told reporters that international agencies had already begun work there. According to the UNHCR, by mid-July some 41 Muslim families had come back, and a similar number of Croats were about to do so. The plan was for over 4,000 refugees to return.

Meanwhile, Muslim-run Konjic the second "open city" which is in southern Bosnia-Herzegovina, Muslims and Croat representatives held a meeting Thursday to discuss refugee returns.

The UNHCR hopes that 400 houses will be repaired there by the end of the year.

Under the "open cities" scheme, municipalities declare themselves open and ready to receive refugees and then international agencies monitor them to see if this is the case. Once they have been recognised they become eligible for international funds. The initiative comes in a year dubbed the "year of refugee returns" by the United Nations, but which has seen scant progress to date.

Some two million people fled or were expelled from their homes during the 1995 Dayton peace accords, but of those who have returned, almost all have gone back to areas where their community is in a majority. UNHCR Special Envoy Carrol Faubert admitted last month that the agency was battling a deadlock with minority returns, particularly in the Republika Srpska.

The situation is complicated by the fact that many displaced people unable to return to their homes have taken up residence in houses left empty by refugees of another ethnic group.

Even Muslim-run Vogosca, the third "open city," a suburb near Sarajevo, is not immune from such tensions.



Rescued ski instructor Stuart Diver lies in his Canberra Hospital bed with his parents Anne (right) and Steve Diver standing beside him Sunday. Stuart spent a night in intensive care after being freed from the ruins of an Australian ski lodge Saturday after it was destroyed by a landslide three days ago (Reuters photo)

Australia landslide survivor tells of fight for life

THREDBO (R) — Ski instructor Stuart Diver, pulled alive from the rubble of a three-day-old Australian landslide, has told rescuers how he fought to survive inside his concrete tomb.

As underground water filled the cavity in which Mr. Diver and his wife, Sally, were trapped, the fit ski instructor tried desperately to hold his wife's head above water.

But Sally was pinned on a mattress beside him by something heavy and a sudden rush of water and mud ripped her from Mr. Diver's grip. "He hung on desperately, he doesn't know how long for," said rescue helicopter spokesman Bruce Tarrant.

For the next 60-odd hours that Mr. Diver remained trapped under tonnes of twisted rubble, he lay on his back, constantly pressing his nose against the concrete slab above his head to breathe, as water and mud flooded his tomb.

"A number of times he could hear the rush of water starting to build up behind him and he just knew that he was going to get hit with water again," Paul Featherstone, the paramedic who spent 11 hours underground with Mr. Diver, said Sunday. "He only had an inch or two inches above his nose

and what he would do is he would lift his head and put it against the slab above his head and suck in the air," Mr. Featherstone said.

Speaking for the first time from his hospital bed in Canberra, Mr. Diver thanked emergency crews for their efforts and all the people who offered prayers for him over the past four days.

"I'd just like to thank everyone who was involved in my rescue, the fire brigade, and all the rescue services along with the medical teams at Thredbo and here in Canberra and all the people who prayed for me and gave me so much support over the last couple of days," the 27-year-old said. "It's been overwhelming and I don't think I'd have made it through without the involvement of all those people. It's been fantastic, and thanks very much."

Propped up on pillows, Mr. Diver looked well despite his ordeal.

What appeared to be an oxygen tube was attached to his nose and a cage surrounded the lower half of his legs.

Doctors described his recovery as miraculous, while rescuers told of how Mr. Diver had believed he was going to drown in the "mini-tomb" created by two concrete slabs.

Mr. Diver had been

entombed between the slabs with only 30 centimetres in which to move his head and 40 to 50 centimetres to move his feet.

"By the time he was rescued there was very little water in there — he was actually lying in mud," Police Superintendent Charlie Sanderson said.

"But early in the peace, that site had significant quantities of water flowing through it and he said that for a considerable period of time... He almost drowned."

Mr. Diver, who was in bed with his wife when the landslide hit, told rescuers he heard a loud explosion before the two Thredbo Alpine Village ski lodges crumbled, burying 20 people.

"He said it was like a loud explosion. He thought actually that the house had been bombed and that within seconds the whole place erupted," Mr. Featherstone said.

When rescuers Sunday afternoon reached Mr. Diver, who had been in complete darkness for almost three days, they found he had no idea of how long he had been trapped.

"He said at times he thought that maybe he just wouldn't get out, but this guy wouldn't let that beat him," said Mr. Featherstone, who described the perfect Alpine weather outside to Mr. Diver to keep his spirits

up. "I kept promising him this afternoon you'll be out and we'll have a look at it together," Mr. Featherstone said.

Mr. Diver told Mr. Featherstone that he travelled the world in his mind, putting himself in places which he had enjoyed in the past, in order to pass the time while rescuers dug him out.

"When he first saw the light, the sky, he just looked at it and he said 'that sky's fantastic'," Mr. Featherstone said.

The first doctor to examine Mr. Diver, who is now being treated in hospital for hypothermia to one toe and lacerations, described his condition as "remarkable."

"This man's chances of survival were one in a million," Dr. Richard Morris said Sunday. "The fact that he has been able to survive is absolutely remarkable. It's absolutely out of the blue — it's a miracle."

But while rescuers Sunday rejoiced in Mr. Diver's amazing survival, the search for more survivors and bodies continued in the dangerously shifting landslide site at Thredbo.

The number of bodies removed from the wreckage rose to eight Sunday with police believing they had located a ninth.

Ten people are missing.

Taleban edge their frontline forward as battles continue

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghanistan's Taleban militia have edged their frontlines forward as battles against rival ex-government forces continued to rage north of here, AFP witnessed Sunday.

The militia has regained control of the town of Hossein Kot, situated 20 kilometres north of Kabul, and moved forces into the village of Guldara, situated a further two kilometres northwest of here.

"We are now in full control here, and we have completely captured Guldara and the hilltops overlooking it," Taleban frontline commander Mullah Ghulam Sakhi explained. The gains represent the first change in more than a week of deadlock.

Meanwhile in the Taleban Islamic militia stronghold, Qandahar, the Taleban expressed their willingness to form a multi-party commission to work out a political settlement in war ravaged Afghanistan, officials sources here said Sunday.

The Taleban conveyed their willingness to Pakistani peace mediator, Ifkhar Murshid after three hours of talks in the militia's headquarters Saturday, the state-run Pakistan Television said.

Mr. Murshid's seven-member delegation held talks with governor of Kandahar, Mullah Muhammad Hassan Rahmani, Foreign Minister Mullah Mohammad Ghous and other Taleban officials including Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Jalil.

The talks focussed on a proposed political commission that will take up issues like a ceasefire, the exchange of prisoners and the future set up of a broad-based government in Afghanistan.

Mr. Murshid, shuttling between warring Afghan factions, will leave for Tehran Monday to brief Iranian leaders about the progress of his peace mission, the television said.

It said Mr. Ghous welcomed Pakistan's efforts to arrange an intra-Afghan dialogue and supported the idea of a political commission, provided all Afghan groups including leaders of the northern alliance agreed to its objectives.

"We are ready to cooperate with the United Nations and Pakistan in their efforts for peace and their suggestions and contribution in the formation of a political commission" to address the Afghan problem, Mr. Ghous told the associated press of Pakistan.

He said a ceasefire was also possible if the two sides developed "mutual trust," the official news agency said, adding that Mr. Ghous reiterated that Taleban leaders detained in northern Mazar-i-Sharif should be released first to pave the way for talks.

Pakistan recognises the Afghan government led by the Taleban who seized Kabul in September and now control two-thirds of the country while Iran supports the northern alliance which includes ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Shite Hezb-i-Wahdat facioo and Uzbek warlord Abdul Malik.

Mr. Murshid's trip to Iran follows Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi's visit to Pakistan last month when the two countries agreed to use their influence to bring the warring sides to the negotiating table to end the bloodshed in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani envoy's talks with Iranian leaders will coincide with the swearing-in of Mohammad Khatami as president of Iran Monday.

The moderate Iranian leader will replace Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani who is relinquishing power after twice serving a four-year term as president.

Pakistan is trying to arrange peace parleys between the Taleban and a rival Afghan opposition alliance as fighting intensified north of the Afghan capital Kabul.

Officials said Mr. Murshid will shortly visit Mazar-i-Sharif, political capital of the anti-Taleban alliance controlling several northern provinces.

The head of the U.N. special mission for Afghanistan, Norbert Holm, is also expected to travel to the northern Afghan city of Mazar-i-Sharif early next week for talks with northern coalition leaders, sources here said.

Croatia's fate now lies in Tudjman's hands

ZAGREB (R) — President Franjo Tudjman, due to be sworn in for another five years Tuesday, has the power to move his country decisively towards Western Europe in his new term of office.

But diplomats say the 76-year-old Mr. Tudjman, who led Croatia through war to independence from federal Yugoslavia in 1991, will have to substitute actions for words if he wants to overcome his country's reputation as a laggard in the east European pack.

"Now everything depends on the manner in which Mr. Tudjman leads Croatia," a Zagreb-based Western diplomat said. "If his actions meet the rhetoric, Croatia will most likely move in the right direction."

The former Yugoslav army general has until 2002 to tackle some of the issues that have stalled Croatia's stride towards Europe — improve human rights and democracy, rebuild the war-shattered economy and distribute wealth more equally.

He has already stumbled. In 1995 the Council of Europe postponed Zagreb's bid for membership, citing its poor human rights record and the state control of the media.

Croatia was admitted later but its dreams of joining the European Union (EU) and NATO were to suffer further blows. The first round of NATO's enlargement includes only Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, with Croatia nowhere near.

"Croatia is already behind the curve, way behind many countries, even some in the Balkans — Bulgaria and Romania who have joined Partnership for Peace," a diplomat said, referring to NATO's military cooperation programme.

Sri Lankan battle toll surpasses 250

COLDMBD (R) — Sri Lankan troops scored a lopsided victory in the latest fighting with Tamil Tiger rebels in the northern Wanni region, which has now claimed at least 250 lives, the military said Sunday.

A defence ministry statement said Sunday that more than 200 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, many of them women, and 67 troops had been killed in the fighting that erupted late Friday.

The ministry statement said troops clearing the affected area near Ommathai just north of the government-held town of Vavuniya, some 220 kilometres north of the capital Colombo, had also recovered a large number of weapons left behind by the rebels.

The clandestine Voice of Tiger Radio, monitored in Vavuniya Sunday, however put the rebel death toll at only 89.

"This time they have got a big bashing," military spokesman, Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said earlier.

"It was a good blow to the LTTE. They did not expect this type of retaliation. The military was prepared," Brig. Munasinghe said.

The Defence Ministry said the LTTE launched seven assaults through

Friday night but all of them were repulsed, causing heavy casualties to the rebels.

An LTTE spokesman in London said he had no information about the attack.

The military, which launched a major northward offensive in May, is battling rebels in the Wanni to open a strategic highway linking the northern Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the island.

The military's offensive — and the fighting — has slowed since the LTTE launched two fierce counterattacks in June, but the fighting has shown signs of escalating this week.

Sporadic fighting earlier in the week ended with the rebels launching their latest counterattack at Ommathai Friday.

Diplomats said the Sri Lankan military was this time able to fill in breaches in defence lines caused by the assaults much more quickly than during the earlier attacks in June.

"They (the military) seemed to have got in reinforcements quickly to these areas. They were ready," the diplomat said.

But a former general, who led the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) in Sri Lanka a decade ago, said the latest offensive to open the highway seemed

to have reached a stalemate. "In one word I will describe it as a stalemate," retired General A.S. Kalkat said in an interview published in the Sunday Times.

Geo. Kalkat said the Sri Lankan army might be able to open the road, but added that it may not be in a position to carry out further offensive operations against the LTTE as most of the troops will be required to secure the road against rebel attacks.

"It is necessary to have this road as a safe continuous line of communication and manoeuvre... in which case it will have to be controlled at all times and protected," Gen. Kalkat said.

He said the Sri Lankan military had deployed most of its troops in Jaffna to hold the peninsula, which was captured in April last year, leaving eastern areas open to the possibility of rebel attacks.

The LTTE have been fighting for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east since 1983.

The government says more than 50,000 people have been killed in the war. The LTTE say the toll is higher.

Ex-warlord Taylor installed as Liberian president

MONROVIA (R) — Former warlord Charles Taylor was sworn in Saturday as Liberia's elected president in a euphoric climax to a transition from seven years of civil war.

A 21-gun salute by African peacekeepers boomed across the capital Monrovia and fighter jets flew past as Mr. Taylor took the oath of office from Chief Justice Francis Johnson-Morris.

Thousands of Liberians cheered and danced in the streets of the war-battered capital, spruced up for the ceremony.

About a dozen heads of state or their envoys witnessed the colourful ceremony in Centennial Pavilion commemorating the founding of Liberia by freed American slaves in 1847.

Among them were Niger-

ian military ruler General Sani Abacha, Ivory Coast President Henri Konan Bedie and the heads of state of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Guinea, Guinea Bissau and Niger.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, widely accused of training and funding Mr. Taylor's guerrillas who launched the war, sent his justice minister. South Africa's Nelson Mandela was represented by his Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

High-level envoys represented the United States, the United Nations, Gambia and Taiwan, an important Taylor ally.

"The event here today is the culmination of the collective efforts of the sub-region to restore peace to Liberia," Gen. Abacha said

in a speech on behalf of regional leaders who brokered peace in Liberia. Gen. Abacha heads the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States, which sent troops to Liberia in 1990.

Gen. Abacha sounded a warning about the region's new crisis in Sierra Leone, where coup leaders are defying regional efforts to restore the elected government toppled on May 25.

Nigerian troops are enforcing regional economic sanctions against the junta in Freetown. Negotiations to resolve the crisis peacefully collapsed in Ivory Coast this week.

"There cannot be peace and stability in Liberia if Sierra Leone is not stable," Gen. Abacha said, calling for international support for the

embargo.

In 1989 Mr. Taylor launched the civil war that devastated the country that prided itself as Africa's first modern republic. But Liberians looking for strong leadership after the conflict voted massively for him in presidential elections on July 19.

Mr. Taylor polled more than 75 per cent of votes in the presidential election, crushing 11 rivals. In the parallel legislative poll, his National Patriotic Party swept 21 of the 26 Senate seats and 49 of the 64 in the House of Representatives.

In a reassuring gesture, two other former warlords whose militia battled Mr. Taylor's guerrillas in Monrovia last year — George Boley and Roosevelt Johnson — attended the inauguration.

Rwandan army on bid to win hearts and minds in Ruhengeri

KIGALI (AFP) — The Rwandan army has begun enlisting the help of civilians in the northwestern region of Ruhengeri in a bid to crack down on soldiers of the former government army and their militia allies, who have been fighting an insurgency war over the past few months.

Last week, soldiers could be seen gathering large groups of local men, issuing them with orders and marching them into the hills to search for the insurgents.

The operations were focused on Cyabingo district, southeast of Ruhengeri. But similar activities were being carried out elsewhere.

A commander in the Yaounde district of Ruhengeri town said he was working with over 200 local men. They were filing along the road and into a banana plantation.

The commander, who asked not to be named, said Interahamwe (Hutu extremist militia) were hiding in the plantation.

Pointing to the men and to groups of onlookers, he said: "All these people here, they know them. They are their brothers and sons. So we are using them."

"They (the Interahamwe) cannot cook but they are eating," he added, implying that the local population


was still assisting them.

Civilians have, in the past few days, begun capturing and handing over Interahamwe in what appears to be a major shift of attitude.

Local people in Cyabingo agreed that they had recently begun helping the army.

There were many differing reports but most said that until recently, the army had been killing civilians who tried to run away.

"Everyone fled. The army came and was shooting men, women and children," one woman said. She said local people were now returning to their homes "little by little."



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INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST IN ACQUIRING 51% OF THE SHARES OF IRBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY COMPANY (IDECO), JORDAN

The Government of Jordan ("GOJ") has commenced a privatisation programme to introduce private sector participation in all sectors, especially infrastructure. As a part of this programme, GOJ has begun the reform of its electric power industry with the objective of creating a suitable environment for the sustainable development of the electric power, strengthening financial viability of the sector and improving the efficiency and quality of electricity services in the country. A high priority is being given to the attraction of private sector investment and expertise in power generation and distribution.

Jordan Investment Corporation ("JIC") invites expressions of interest from local and overseas investors for the acquisition of 51% of the shares of IDECO, equivalent to 1,542,540 shares. In the event that the interested party is a foreign investor, it is required that the investment be made by a consortium in which there is a minimum participation of 10% of the total shares of IDECO by a Jordanian investor in this consortium. Candidates may be electricity distribution companies, electricity operators with financial investors, financial investors who can procure electricity industry expertise, or other suitable parties.

IDECO holds a concession to distribute electricity in Irbid, Ajloun, Jerash and Maalq governorates, which includes the provision to enter the field of generation. New industrial projects are focusing on the northern region of Jordan. Average annual industrial consumption in IDECO's coverage area has doubled from 1992 to 1996. In 1995 and 1996, electricity supplied was 576 million kWh and 642 million kWh respectively, an increase of 11.5%. Sales in 1995 and 1996 was \$26.6 million and \$32 million respectively, and net profit before tax in 1995 and 1996 was \$762,841 and \$876,448 respectively.

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Amman, Jordan

Telephone: 856615 (from overseas: 962-6-856615)
Cellular telephone: 079-28568 (from overseas: 962-79-28568)
Fax: 818338 (from overseas: 962-6-818338)

by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, September 15, 1997. Eligible parties will be given further information by Wednesday, October 1, to enable them to submit a bid for 51% of the shares of IDECO.

Jordan Times

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Voter awareness a must

NOW THAT it is certain that parliamentary elections will take place on time next November, voters need to become acquainted in depth with the national issues confronting the country. There can be no free, fair and meaningful elections in the absence of candid and thorough discussions and debates on these issues the widest possible dissemination of information about these public considerations needs to be promoted as a high priority policy decision. On the domestic front the list of issues that concern us all are inexhaustible. But the compelling socio-economic matters, especially poverty and unemployment, top the list.

The continuing debate over the election law and the press and publication legislation calls for wider consideration in a free and open forum. Tribal justice and the so-called honour crime phenomenon surely deserve a closer look by voters and parliamentary candidates alike. Environmental issues also call for a more considered judgement by all of us especially at a time when threats to life from pollution and contamination are rampant in our milieu. On the regional level, the peace treaty with Israel while a fact, demands scrutiny at all times, in particular, the extent of normalisation with the Jewish state under the prevailing conditions when Israel appears bent on frustrating the quest for a just and comprehensive peace in all the Middle East. Also, our relations with the other states in the region, especially the Arab countries, requires another look and examination in light of the significance and pace of events in the region. The special relation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) needs further fostering on a more candid and stable basis.

On the international level, the Kingdom's warm relations with several major capitals, especially Washington, calls for a deeper appreciation in view of the changing global political climate in the wake of the collapse of the communist order and the evolution towards a uni-polar world. For these purposes there must be national debates between officials and non-officials with opposing or different points of view. While we support the proposition that the executive and legislative branches must not overlap by allowing deputies to act as cabinet ministers, we still believe that the formation of any future government must take into serious consideration public opinion as reflected in the results of the voting next November.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour daily voiced the Arab Nation's rejection of acts of violence and terrorism and the murder of the innocent civilians regardless of their nationality and religion, even if they are the enemies of the Arabs. But, he said, the Arab Nation rejects injustice, because it sows the seeds of resistance, and hates occupation of a foreign power, because occupation triggers reactions in the form of resistance. Hamadeh Faraneh said that the suicide attack in Jerusalem can only be viewed within the framework of occupation and injustice and as a result of the continued starvation of and repression against the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli forces. Israel, he said, should realise that its people can have security and peace once it abandons violence, occupation, repression and other acts with which it has been humiliating the Palestinians. The suicide attacks in Jerusalem have proved that resistance activity can never stop or end through repression and terrorism and that such reprisals will not end as long as the Israeli occupation is in place, he added. The writer said that the harsh measures imposed on the Palestinians cannot prevent a repetition of suicide attacks though they might delay resistance acts for some time.

A WRITER for Al Arab Al Yawm criticised the Arab World for not moving in concert to back the Palestinians and putting an end to Israel's measures and acts of repression in the occupied Arab lands. Taher Adwan said that it is to be regretted that the Syrian-Iranian summit meeting in Tehran, which condemned the continued occupation and called for a unified action against the Israelis, was the only favourable response. We had expected an Arab-Arab meeting at the summit level and a concerted diplomatic action to be launched at the international level to deal with Israel's continued challenge, said the writer. He said Arab regimes realise that the higher Arab interests are at stake more than any time before and they realise that there can be no hope from the Americans to come to their aid against their Israeli ally. It should be emphasised that the Arab leaders must realise that the Israeli measures against the Palestinians are not a mere manifestation of an Israeli reaction to the suicide attack in Jerusalem but rather a clear sign of Israel's pre-designed plans to stifle the Palestinian resistance, said the writer. He said that the Arab World has to launch a worldwide diplomatic offensive to counter Benjamin Netanyahu's claims that Israel's repressive measures came only in response to and to stem the alleged acts of terrorism committed by the Palestinians.

Economic Review

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

Trading in arms, peace and development

FOR A good number of years, "regional conflict" and "the Middle East" have been synonymous in the minds of many. Consequently, investment flows to this region of the world were hampered by regional turmoil that began as bilateral conflicts that spilled over to become multilateral. However, now that most countries seem to be coming out of the war era, the war argument as the reason for why foreign money has not flooded the region no longer holds water, especially since peace has, officially in some cases and unofficially in others, been established. So what is the peace dividend, how do we access it?

Some in the region, accustomed to aid and a "grant-me dollars" mentality, have thought that the peace dividend would come in the form of paycheques to all, but to their dismay, such a dividend has proved not likely to materialise as the true worth of peace to the world has been greatly overestimated.

By definition, the "peace dividend", when taken in the broad economic sense, means that expenditures on arms decrease, thus freeing up resources for civilian expenditures and inviting greater optimism and security for investors. The total "peace dividend" in the region is only manifested in the form of armament spending reductions.

In fact, regional arms sales have decreased in the post-peace era. Saudi Arabia, the regional leader in net imports (imports after the value of exports has been deducted) of arms, decreased its imports from \$9.3 billion in the period 1984-87 to \$7.2 billion in 1991-94. Egypt followed suit, as the second largest importer, with net imports of \$2.1 billion in the 1984-1987 period, a figure which declined to \$1.2 billion in the years 1991-1994. Third in line is Israel, whose net imports dropped slightly from \$670 million to \$530 million for the 1984-87 and 1990-94 periods, respectively. It is important to realise that one must be careful when interpreting these numbers as they do not necessarily indicate a shift towards a more peaceful region.

In the case of Israel and Egypt, decreased imports could mean a move towards more home production of arms due

to technology transfer. Israel remains the region's top exporter, having sold \$393 million worth of armaments between 1991-1994, a significant decline from its 1984-87 level of \$864 million.

Can peace take credit for the decrease in regional arms sales? In evaluating the peace dividend, one must not forget that the worldwide arms trade has also decreased rather dramatically over the past few years. The total sale of arms worldwide in the period 1984-1987 was \$75 billion; between 1991-1994 the figure dropped to \$29 billion, a two-thirds reduction, as a result of the end of the cold war. Firms that produced military goods in many of the traditional exporting nations have converted their military production facilities to civilian production. The race for arms production finally has a winner, the United States of America, who today is the only supplier of the entire spectrum of quality military products, thus replacing the former Soviet Union as the largest exporter of arms. The U.S. exported approximately \$14 billion in arms between 1991-1994 compared to \$4 billion exported by the former USSR in the same period.

With all the talk of peace and peace dividend, regional peace has not led to a decline in regional military expenditures that can match the decline in spending worldwide. Therefore, one could say that the "comparative peace dividend", defined in its narrowest sense as decreased spending on arms, has not been realised.

How, then, do we realise the peace dividend now that wars seem to be winding down in the region and a long-term "no-war" era seems to be projected? The lack of development in the region can no longer be blamed on the war argument, either in terms of insecurity of foreign capital or diversion of scarce resources to military armaments. If the "peace dividend" is to be realised, inefficiencies that have persisted throughout many decades in the economies of the region must be exposed and the hard process of adjustment must begin. The global village is proving to be a very sophisticated, highly competitive metropolis where country boys may be simply lost.

LETTERS

Respect for man and law

To the Editor:

I COMMUTE every day and I have seen cars, especially taxis and buses, that will simply sharply cut the lines and swerve to the right or to the left shoulder to only take off seconds later.

Traffic congestion in Jordan are not really serious, compared to other countries like, for example, my homeland, the Philippines. Here, in a few minutes' time, the flow of traffic usually becomes smooth. And there are efforts to make motorists' life safer and more convenient by con-

structing tunnels and overpasses. The only problem, it seems is that individuals tend to drive more aggressively. Incompetence and discourteousness of many drivers often create tension and pose a danger to the public.

The only way to prevent accidents and drive in a civilised manner is by abiding by the traffic laws and showing respect for the fellow man.

Emma P. Soldevilla,
Amman.

Human Rights File

The forgotten legacy of Justice Brennan

By Waleed M. Sadi

THE PASSING away of the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan about two weeks ago was hardly noticed in Jordan even though the American jurist was the very judge who rendered the landmark judgement on the controversial one-man, one-vote principle nearly three decades ago.

The international community picked up these election criterion when the United Nations endorsed it during the crusade to end colonialism, in the fifties and sixties, and spread democracy worldwide. For the past three years, Jordanians have been engaged in a heated debate about this juridical standard with national efforts focused on articulating a contemporary election legislation that is in harmony with the country's organic law as well as with soft and hard customary international laws. Unfortunately, the Jordanian national debate over the one-person, one-vote system took a warped dimension, altogether unrelated to the original juridical pronouncements on the issue.

When Justice Brennan handed down the majority view of the Supreme Court on this issue, back in 1969, he and his colleagues had the "Equal Protection" clause in the U.S. constitution in mind when striking down a New York electoral districts statute that divided the state without paying enough attention to the one-man, one-vote principle. That cardinal principle has been constantly

viewed as calling for equal representation for equal numbers of people," by designating electoral districts with full and faithful regard to population numbers. In an earlier judgement, the U.S. Supreme Court had decided, in the case of Krikpatrick v. Preiser, that states must allow for only "limited population variances" which are unavoidable despite a good-faith effort, to achieve absolute equality of populations of different districts for election purposes. The court further ruled that "to accept population variances, large or small, in order to create districts with specific interest orientations, is antithetical to the basic premise of the constitutional command to provide equal representation for equal numbers of people."

There can be no doubt in the mind of jurists and statesmen alike that the Jordanian constitutional demand for equal treatment of Jordanians corresponds to the "Equal Protection" clause in the U.S. Constitution. Any departure from the U.S. jurisprudence on this issue should not be tolerated in our country, no matter what the pretexts may be. Jordanian electoral districts must be redrawn so that they may have an equal population number. Otherwise, the voting rights of citizens will not be equal, pure and simple.

When there is an opportunity to reconsider the existing election law, our concerned people should make an extra effort to harmonise this law with domestic and international norms.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT

Wastewater Collection Systems for Taiba, B'doul and Bedia (Project 7-WW)
Central Tender No. 163/97
INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewage to submit tenders for the construction of the wastewater collection system for Wadi Mousa, part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. This project is being funded by the Water Authority, partially through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

3. Project 7-WW consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the wastewater collection system for the towns of Taiba, B'doul and Bedia. Specific components of the contract consist of the following:
Approximately 28.28km of precast concrete pipe lateral sewers ranging in size from 200mm to 300mm in diameter, about 0.68km of ductile iron main sewer lines ranging in size from 200mm to 300mm in diameter, about 3.31km of 150mm diameter precast concrete pipe for house connections, and about 830 sewer manholes.

4. Tender documents for Project 7-WW can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

5. The last day for purchasing tender documents by invited contractors is August 28, 1997.

6. Tenders for Project 7-WW must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 21, 1997.

7. Tenders for Project 7-WW will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 21, 1997 at the Office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on

August 30 and 31, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) and USAID will be in attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751
Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 688950
Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000
Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 7-WW is September 25, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Naser Madadha

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT

Wastewater Collection System for Wadi Mousa (Project 6-WW)
Central Tender No. 162/97
INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewage to submit tenders for the construction of the wastewater collection system for Wadi Mousa, part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. This project is being funded by the Water Authority, partially through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

3. Project 6-WW consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the wastewater collection system for the town of Wadi Mousa. Specific components of the contract consist of the following:
About 47.68 km of precast concrete pipe lateral sewers ranging in size from 200mm to 500mm in diameter, about 5.00 km of ductile iron main sewer lines ranging in size from 200 mm to 400 mm in diameter, about 4.32 km of 150 mm diameter precast concrete pipe for house connections, and about 1,775 sewer manholes.

4. Tender documents for Project 6-WW can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

5. The last day for purchasing tender documents by pre-qualified contractors is August 28, 1997.

6. Tenders for Project 6-WW must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997.

7. Tenders for Project 6-WW will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997 at the Office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the

Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on August 30 and 31, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) and USAID will be in attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606 757 Fax: 606751
Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 688950
Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000
Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 6-WW is September 18, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Naser Madadha

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT

Wastewater Collection System for Wadi Mousa (Project 6-WW)
Central Tender No. 162/97
INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewage to submit tenders for the construction of the wastewater collection system for Wadi Mousa, part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. This project is being funded by the Water Authority, partially through a grant from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

3. Project 6-WW consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the wastewater collection system for the town of Wadi Mousa. Specific components of the contract consist of the following:
About 47.68 km of precast concrete pipe lateral sewers ranging in size from 200mm to 500mm in diameter, about 5.00 km of ductile iron main sewer lines ranging in size from 200 mm to 400 mm in diameter, about 4.32 km of 150 mm diameter precast concrete pipe for house connections, and about 1,775 sewer manholes.

4. Tender documents for Project 6-WW can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

5. The last day for purchasing tender documents by pre-qualified contractors is August 28, 1997.

6. Tenders for Project 6-WW must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997.

7. Tenders for Project 6-WW will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997 at the Office of the Government Tenders Directorate.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate



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WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT Wadi Mousa Water Distribution System (Project 3-W)

Central Tender No. 114/97

INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors from countries members in the European Commission, USA, Canada, Japan and Jordanian contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewerage to submit tenders for the construction of the (Project 3-W), part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. Project 3-W consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the Wadi Mousa Water Distribution System, specific components of the contract consist of the following:

- 27.1km of ductile iron pipe ranging in size from 100mm to 250mm
- 42km of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe ranging in size from 25mm to 83mm
- 7km of galvanized steel pipes ranging in size from 20-25mm
- 5 Pressure break tanks
- 5 Pressure reducing valve assembly
- 36 Air release valve assemblies
- 29 Gate valves, 100-200mm
- 29 Washout chambers
- 5 Check valves, 150-200mm
- 6 Fire fighting filling points

3. Tender documents for Project 3-W can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

4. The last day for purchasing tender documents by invited contractors is August 28, 1997.

5. Tenders submitted by foreign contractors must include two separate envelopes as follows:

- a. Technical Proposal
- b. Financial Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall be in accordance with the pre-qualification questionnaire included in the tender documents.

6. Tenders for Project 3-W must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997.

7. Technical proposals from foreign contractors, if any, submitted to contract 3-W will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 14, 1997 at the office of the Government Tenders Directorate. After the completion of the technical evaluation, financial offers will be opened for local and qualified foreign contractors.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on September 1st and 2nd, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 686950

Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000 Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 3-W is September 20, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Naser Madadha

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate



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WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT Taiba, B'doul and Bedia Water Distribution Systems (Project 4-W)

Central Tender No. 115/97

INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors from countries members in the European Commission, USA, Canada, Japan and Jordanian contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewerage to submit tenders for the construction of the (Project 4-W), part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. Project 4-W consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the Taiba, B'doul and Bedia Water Distribution Systems, specific components of the contract consist of the following:

- 17.4km of ductile iron pipe ranging in size from 100mm to 200mm
- 30.9km of high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe ranging in size from 25mm to 63mm
- 4.7km of galvanized steel pipes, 20 to 25mm diameter
- 6 Nos. pressure reducing valve assemblies
- 17 Nos. of air release valve assemblies
- 17 Nos. of gate valves, 100-250mm
- 21 Nos. Washout chambers
- 6 Nos. Fire filling points

3. Tender documents for Project 4-W can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

4. The last day for purchasing tender documents by invited contractors is August 28, 1997.

5. Tenders submitted by foreign contractors must include two separate envelopes as follows:

- a. Technical Proposal
- b. Financial Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall be in accordance with the pre-qualification questionnaire included in the tender documents.

6. Tenders for Project 4-W must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 21, 1997.

7. Technical proposals from foreign contractors, if any, submitted to contract 4-W will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 21, 1997 at the office of the Government Tenders Directorate. After the completion of the technical evaluation, financial offers will be opened for local and qualified foreign contractors.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on August 18th, and 19th, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing, P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 686950

Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000 Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 4-W is September 27, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Naser Madadha

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate



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WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT Wells, Jiththa Pump Stations and Delivery Piping (Project 1-W)

Central Tender No. 112/97

INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors from countries members in the European Commission, USA, Canada, Japan and Jordanian contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewerage/First Grade Electromechanical alone or joint venture to submit tenders for the construction of the (Project 1-W), part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. Project 1-W consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the wells, Jiththa Pump Station, and Delivery Piping, specific components of the contract consist of the following:

- Construction and startup of Jiththa Pump Station
- Construction of Jiththa Reservoir (1,000 square metre)
- Telemetry System between the wells, Jiththa Pump Station, and to All Pump Station
- 6 Construction and startup of wells installations (well casings already installed by the employer) at the Jiththa well field
- 21.430m Ductile iron pipe ranging in size from 150mm to 400 mm in diameter
- 72.1m Reinforced concrete pipe 400mm in diameter
- 12 Air release valve assemblies
- 12 Gate valve assemblies
- 3 Butterfly valve assemblies
- 8 Combination vacuum/air release valve assemblies
- 13 Washout assemblies

3. Tender documents for Project 1-W can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

4. The last day for purchasing tender documents by invited contractors is August 28, 1997.

5. Tenders submitted by foreign contractors must include two separate envelopes as follows:

- a. Technical Proposal
- b. Financial Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall be in accordance with the pre-qualification questionnaire included in the tender documents.

6. Tenders for Project 1-W must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 28, 1997.

accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 28, 1997.

7. Technical proposals from foreign contractors, if any, submitted to contract 1-W will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 28, 1997 at the office of the Government Tenders Directorate. After the completion of the technical evaluation, financial offers will be opened for local and qualified foreign contractors.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on September 1st and 2nd, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 686950

Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000 Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 1-W is October 4, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Eng. Naser Madadha

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS & HOUSING Government Tenders Directorate



وزارة الاشغال العامة والسكان
دائرة العطاءات الحكومية

WADI MOUSA WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER PROJECT Water Pump Stations, Reservoirs and Intertown Piping (Project 2-W)

Central Tender No. 113/97

INVITATION TO SUBMIT TENDERS

1. The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), part of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, through the Ministry of Public Works and Housing's Government Tenders Directorate, invites contractors from countries members in the European Commission, USA, Canada, Japan and Jordanian contractors that have been classified by the Ministry of Public Works and Housing as First Grade Water and Sewerage/First Grade Electromechanical alone or joint venture to submit tenders for the construction of the (Project 2-W), part of the Wadi Mousa Water Supply and Wastewater Project.

2. Project 2-W consists of the supply, delivery, construction and pre-commissioning of the Water Pump Stations, Reservoirs and Intertown Piping, specific components of the contract consist of the following:

- Construction and startup of All Pump Station
- Construction of All Reservoir (4,500m³)
- Rehabilitation of Qa'a Pump Station
- Three new pumps
- New chlorine storage room
- New chlorination system
- Rehabilitation of the existing chlorination room
- Interior painting of existing station
- New lighting in existing station
- Installation of our new overhead roll-up doors and the rehabilitation of the remaining four overhead roll-up doors
- New floor lifting in existing station
- New paved parking area and walking
- Exterior lighting
- Startup of all new equipment
- Construction of Qa'a Reservoir (4,500 m³)
- Construction of Wadi Mousa Reservoir (3000 m³)
- Minor modifications to the existing Wadi Mousa Reservoir
- Construction of 1,453 linear metres of 300mm ductile iron pipe from the All Reservoir to the connection of the existing southern villages distribution system.
- Construction of 815 linear metres of 400mm ductile iron pipe to All Reservoir.
- Construction of 1,372 linear metres of 300mm ductile iron pipe and 5,679 linear metres of 250mm ductile iron pipe from All Pump Station to the Taiba Reservoir.
- Construction of 810 linear metres of 400mm ductile iron pipe and 5,689 linear metres of 350mm ductile iron pipe and 775 linear metres of 250mm ductile iron pipe from the Qa'a Pump Station to the Wadi Mousa Reservoir.
- Telemetry systems consisting of two separate systems as specified and shown on the drawings.

3. Tender documents for Project 2-W can be purchased from the Ministry of Public Works and Housing at the below address starting August 4, 1997 for the non-refundable price of JD200,000. Additional sets of tender documents may be purchased for the non-refundable price of JD100,000.

Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

4. The last day for purchasing tender documents by invited contractors is August 28, 1997.

5. Tenders submitted by foreign contractors must include two separate envelopes as follows:

- a. Technical Proposal
- b. Financial Proposal

The Technical Proposal shall be in accordance with the pre-qualification questionnaire included in the tender documents.

6. Tenders for Project 2-W must be submitted, in accordance with the contract documents, before 13:00 hours Jordan local time on October 28, 1997.

7. Technical proposals from foreign contractors, if any, submitted to contract 2-W will be opened at 14:00 hours Jordan local time on October 28, 1997 at the office of the Government Tenders Directorate. After the completion of the technical evaluation, financial offers will be opened for local and qualified foreign contractors.

8. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Petra Forum Hotel in Wadi Mousa on September 1st and 2nd, 1997, starting at 9:00 a.m. hours Jordan local time. The pre-bid conference will consist of site visits and questions/answer sessions. Representatives from the Water Authority, the consulting engineer, Camp Dresser & McKee International (CDM) attendance at the conference. Attendance of the pre-bid conference by the contractors is optional.

9. Any questions regarding the tender documents shall be sent to the Government Tenders Directorate, Ministry of Public Works and Housing with copies to the WAJ and CDM at the addresses listed below:

Attn. Eng. Naser Madadha
Chairman - Central Tender Committee
Government Tenders Directorate
Ministry of Public Works and Housing
P.O. Box 1120, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 606757 Fax: 606751

Attn. Eng. Nawaf Daoud
Assistant Secretary General for Projects
Water Authority of Jordan
Ministry of Water and Irrigation
P.O. Box 2412, Amman, Jordan
Telephone: 680100 Fax: 686950

Attn. Mr. Frederick J. McNeill
Camp Dresser & McKee International Inc.
Ten Cambridge Center Cambridge, MA 02142 USA
Telephone: 617-252-8000 Fax: 617-577-7504

All questions must be received in writing by Government Tenders Directorate with copies to the WAJ and CDM. No questions will be responded to through any other means. All contractors shall receive responses at all questions submitted. All questions must be submitted twenty (20) days prior to the date of submission of tenders. No questions will be responded to after these dates. The final date for submission of questions for the Project 2-W is October 4, 1997.

Chairman/Central Tenders Committee
Director General
Naser Madadha

Iraq ready to resume oil exports at 2.5 million barrels per day

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq is ready to resume crude exports, after a break of two months, and raise them to 2.5 million barrels a day in a bid to recoup losses under the U.N. oil-for-food accord, an oil ministry official said Sunday.

"Iraq is ready to restart its oil exports and can export around 2.5 million barrels a day (bpd)," said Undersecretary of State Taha Hamud Mussa, quoted in the official daily Al-Qadisiya.

Under the oil-for-food accord, sanctions-hit Iraq started limited exports of crude in December to finance imports of humanitarian supplies.

But Baghdad suspended the oil exports in June to await U.N. approval of a new distribution plan for the supplies of

food and medicine. Approval is now expected this week.

Iraq has lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of its suspension of the U.N.-authorized sales and will not be able to repair the damage, according to oil industry officials.

The second term of the U.N. oil-for-food deal gave Iraq from June 8 until September to export \$1 billion worth of crude. But now only five weeks are left.

The U.N. Security Council has ruled out an Iraqi bid to postpone implementation of the second term until the new distribution plan has been approved.

Baghdad would have to export as much as two million bpd at current market prices to meet the \$1 billion sales target

under the U.N. deadline of early September.

Iraq's export capacity runs at only between 1.3 million and 1.6 million bpd, according to international experts.

But Mr. Mussa said: "Iraq can now export around 2.5 million barrels a day if we can obtain certain technical means."

Iraq exported 750,000 barrels a day during the first six-month term of the oil-for-food accord, which ran from December to June, said the undersecretary of state.

Some 400,000 bpd was pumped through Iraq's pipeline to Turkey and the other 350,000 bpd through its Gulf terminal of Mina Al Bakr, he said.

The oil-for-food deal allows Baghdad to export \$2 billion worth of oil every six months, in two 90-day periods, to finance imports of food and medicine. Iraq's suspension of exports in June curbed a slide in crude prices, keeping them at above \$18 a barrel.

Mr. Mussa said that Iraq was working to raise its production capacity to six million bpd and that exploration aimed to raise its oil reserves "from the current level of 112 billion barrels to a new level of 320 billion barrels."

Before the invasion of Kuwait, Iraq's production capacity was 3.5 million bpd and its OPEC quota was 3.14 million bpd. Its current output for domestic use is 700,000 bpd.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARJAH

TELEPHONE: 60711 / 60717

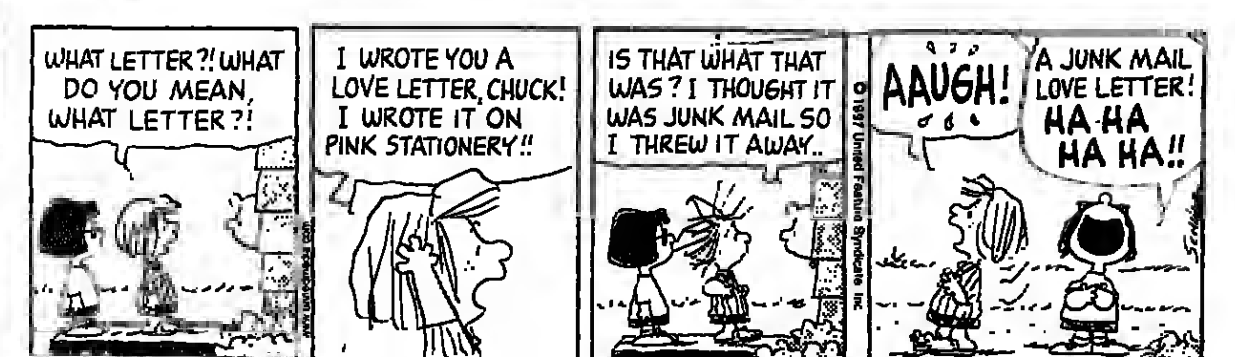
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 03/08/1997

PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	QIV	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRANSACTIONS	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
398.000	214.500	ARAB BANK	13.5	1.36	2	40	11760	294.00	394.00	-
2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	8	0.00	17	8962	18409	2.05	2.05	-
2.480	1.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.2	7.62	13	1140	13843	2.20	2.22	0.02
5.200	4.400	THE HOUSING BK.	14.5	4.01	2	1100	5314	4.85	4.84	0.01
4.180	2.460	JOR. FINANCIAL BK.	10.7	0.00	3	800	2433	3.05	3.02	0.03
1.010	0.760	JOR. GULF BANK	4.8	8.75	11	18514	14825	7.79	8.01	0.21
4.050	3.480	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	16.0	0.00	12	2335	9133	3.94	3.92	0.02
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	21.4	3.06	4	1300	4340	3.35	3.33	0.02
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 216.97 %CHG: -0.04										
2.260	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	4.6	12.35	2	2000	3240	1.61	1.62	0.01
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 113.61 %CHG: +0.05										
1.820	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	8.0	6.06	5	2712	4475	1.66	1.65	0.01
1.540	1.320	JABLO ELECTRICITY	8.3	8.21	2	200	277	1.38	1.40	0.02
7.500	6.000	VICIS. OVERSEAS FID.	7.6	5.07	1	200	1300	7.20	6.90	0.30
2.830	2.150	SHIPPING LINES	17.2	4.39	4	2261	6440	2.82	2.96	0.14
1.550	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	4	1550	2214	1.44	1.44	-
810	480	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	27.2	0.38	0	133	133	6.25	6.25	-
7.190	3.900	AD-OUTSTOR	26.1	4.00	2	257	1606	6.25	6.25	-
1.890	1.190	MTO. EAST HOTELS	18.4	0.00	2	500	603	1.20	1.21	0.01
1.730	0.890	JOR. INTL. INV. EDUC.	7.8	0.00	2	600	1782	3.79	3.97	0.18
1.220	0.930	ZAKRA EDUCATION	9	0.00	5	3650	2608	0.95	0.97	0.02
3.230	1.630	UNITED CO.	8.2	6.40	5	1600	2747	1.73	1.72	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 109.36 %CHG: +0.70										
4.450	3.100	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	26.5	2.79	12	11129	43948	3.97	3.94	0.03
4.140	2.710	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	11.0	2.53	3	1350	5333	3.95	3.95	-
7.050	4.950	ARAB POTASH CO.	15.0	3.10	4	1250	9053	6.40	6.45	0.05
10.500	9.040	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.7	8.92	3	3090	10000	10.00	9.97	0.03
7.200	5.170	JORDAN TANNING	6.0	6.10	2	167	822	5.17	4.92	0.25
4.160	3.040	WOODEN INDUSTRIES	10.4	8.33	4	1150	1365	3.17	3.10	0.07
1.800	1.110	ARAB PHARM. IND.	11.4	4.85	31	11000	45318	4.16	4.12	0.04
5.650	4.300	DAP ALDAMA DV. INV.	16.2	6.11	2	700	983	1.32	1.31	0.01
950	450	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9.7	0.00	16	13400	6164	4.6	4.6	-
1.130	1.000	ARAB PAPER CONV. TRD.	31.8	0.00	3	1900	1961	1.03	1.04	0.01
770	510	NATIONAL INDS.	9	0.00	4	7000	3570	0.52	0.51	0.01
1.290	0.510	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	2	500	275	0.55	0.55	-
990	590	JOR. ROCKWELL INDS.	9	0.00	12	6000	3683	6.6	6.6	-
2.980	1.520	UNIV. CHEM. INDS.	14.2	6.33	4	750	1186	1.59	1.58	0.02
3.050	2.130	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	38.2	0.00	1	200	476	2.60	2.38	0.22
940	530	JOR. STEEL-CHRY	9	0.00	4	4350	2430	5.65	5.65	-
1.670	1.120	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	17.2	5.19	3	1400	1890	1.32	1.35	0.03
1.430	0.730	KAMHAR INVEST.	72.9	0.00	7	3600	2812	0.73	0.74	0.01
2.020	1.080	UNIV. HIGH. INDS.	10.7	0.00	18	10700	12427	1.32	1.32	-
1.510	0.990	JOR. INDS. RESOURCES	14.0	9.62	8	1300	1352	1.05	1.04	0.01
1.620	1.300	NATL. CHEMICALS	14.7	4.48	10	2600	4007	1.54	1.58	0.04
1.450	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	41.8	0.00	3	1500	1368	0.91	0.92	0.01
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 124.39 %CHG: +0.12										
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 166.60 %CHG: +0.06										

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 03/08/1997

660	410	JOR. TRADE FAC.	11.5	0.00	8	11500	5010	4.4	4.3	0.01
1.840	0.660	UNION INV. 50%	9	0.00	28	154541	30906	0.70	0.70	-
510	270	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	11	0.00	11	27000	1212	4.5	4.4	0.01
950	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	8	0.00	20	79281	68132	8.6	8.6	-
1.950	0.610	AL-QADISIYAH 75%	63.3	0.00	8	36050	14781	6.5	6.6	0.01
480	200	JOR. INDS. HATCH-2000	9	0.00	2	1400	381	2.8	2.8	-
730	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	1	100	53	5.2	5.3	0.01
1.370	0.380	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	46.1	0.00	3	1250	500	4.0	4.0	-
720	420	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	1	100	46	4.5	4.6	0.01
750	400	NATL. MULT. ENG. NATICO	9	0.00	44	53850	28551	5.2	5.3	0.01
820	710	JORDAN STEEL	33.5	6.76	4	2450	1813	7.4	7.4	-
1.220	0.860	ORION TOBACCO 75%	9	0.00	2	450	315	9.4	9.5	0.01
670	550	RAZI PHARM. 85%	8	0.00	19	11830	14591	6.1	6.1	-
800	320	INDS. ENG.	9	0.00	1	400	140	3.5	3.5	-
860	130	INDS. CERAMIC	19.7	0.00	4	3750	2813	7.5	7.5	-
820	590	NATL. POULTRY	2	0.00	2	172	113	6.4	6.4	-
1.000	0.730	NATL. ALUMINUM. 75%	8	0.00	15	25150	12575	7.6	7.5	0.01
1.860	0.590	HIO. EAST COMPLEX	8.0	15.38	13	6150	3998	6.5	6.5	-
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 436224 196945										

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	-	1.6630	0.6126	1.5260	118.15	1.3807	1618.00	2.0883	6.2800
DE Mark	0.5368	-	0.3285	0.8191	63.42	0.7409	975.58	1.1264	3.3707
GB Sterling	1.6325	3.0380	-	2.4909	163.40	2.2540	2967.89	3.4255	10.2521
CH Franc	0.6553	122.00	0.4010	-	77.41	0.9042	1190.57	137.42	4.1126
JP Yen	0.0085	1.5755	0.5179	1.2905	-	1.1676	16.37	177.45	5.3108
CA Dollar	0.7243	1.3488	0.4434	1.1048	1.17	-	1316.25	1.5182	4.5468
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0242	0.3367	0.0839	1540.83	0.7890	-	11.54	3.4524
NL Guilder	0.4766	88.74	0.2917	72.72	56.27	0.8577	866.09	-	2.9915
FR Franc	0.1592	0.2966	0.0675	24.2918	16.79	0.2198	33.40	33.4000	-

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	EBP	EGP
US Dollar	-	0.7090	3.7505	0.3770	3.6398	0.3050	3.6705	1536.00	3.3897
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	-	5.2898	0.5317	5.1337	0.4302	5.1770	2169.25	4.7810
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	-	0.1005	0.97	0.0813	0.98	410.08	0.9038
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	8.9485	-	9.85	0.8090	6.74	4079.68	6.9915
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0304	1.0304	-	0.0838	1.01	422.55	0.8313
Kuwait Dinar	3.2787	2.3246	12.2967	1.2360	11.93	-	12.03	5042.62	0.9313
Emirates Dinar	0.2724	0.1932	1.0216	1.0207	0.9818	0.0831	-	419.02	0.9235
Lebanese 1000	0.65	0.4610	2.4386	0.2451	2.3666	0.1983	2.3865	-	2.2040
Egyptian	0.2950	0.2092	1.1064	0.1112	1.0738	0.0900	1.0828	453.73	-

Energy									
Oil's	Last	Previous							
Brent	19.78	19.38							
W. Texa	20.24	20.16							
Bonny	19.78	19.39							
Dubai	17.80	18.05							
UL Gas	205.00	201.00							

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic press

Ministry authorises slight rise in taxi, service car fares

THE MINISTRY of Transport decided to modify the fares charged by regular taxis and service taxis from Sunday. According to a decision by Transport Minister Bassem Saket, fares were raised by 10 fils for all service taxis operating on all routes. The opening charge for regular taxis were kept unchanged at 450 fils but the distance was reduced by 10 metres to become 10 fils for every 90 metres instead of 100 metres. The waiting period was cut by 12 seconds to become 48 seconds instead of 60 fils for every 60 seconds.

The head of the taxi owners union welcomed the decision and said that a programme has drawn a timetable to reprogramme the meters according to the new fares. He added that the union will be able to reprogramme the meters of five taxi offices a day and expected all taxis to have their meters modified within one week. The head of the union praised the decision of the minister noting that it achieves fairness in light of the better services being provided by new taxis replacing the old ones in the country (Al Ra'i).

Council approves licensing 21 industries in seven governorates

THE HIGHER Organisational Council has approved licensing 21 industries in seven governorates at an estimated cost of JD32 million. The small, medium and large-size industries will be set up in Amman, Irbid, Karak, Balqa, Zarqa, Mafrqa and Madaba and are expected to create hundreds of jobs for Jordanians.

The industries cover plants to produce compound chemical fertilisers, agricultural plastic covers, polystyrene boxes, metal tubes (vacuumed), food, insecticides, medical products, gypsum, wood furniture, paints, yeast, juices, organic fertilisers, animal protein, cheese, soap and other products.

International firms should add 'Jordan' to their name here

AN OFFICIAL communiqué issued by the prime minister has authorised the minister of industry and trade to allow foreign companies known internationally to use their foreign names whenever he sees it fit but on condition that the word "Jordan" or "Jordanian" be added to the name.

Noting that such a procedure would be beneficial on the investment level and on the transfer of technology to the Kingdom, the communiqué said that many international companies ask to keep their global name and by permitting their request, it would reflect positively on the investment in the Kingdom (Al Ra'i + Al Aswaj).

More employees from the Ministry of Supply are to be retired

IT HAS been learnt that in addition to the 19 Ministry of Supply employees who were put on retirement last week, the minister has recommended to the Cabinet retiring another 28 employees. Most of those employees were directors and advisors at the ministry. According to sources, there will not be any replacement for those being retired in line with the merger policy being implemented at present. The minister has asked all remaining directors to conduct immediate studies to complete the merger process (Al Dustour).

23.1 per cent higher than the total during the first six months of '96. Volume of share trading at the AFM totals JD111 million during first half of this year

By Samir Gawi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share trading at the organised market of the AFM (Amman Financial Market) during the first half of this year amounted to JD110.90 million, 23.1 per cent higher than the total of JD90.06 million registered during the first six months of 1996, the AFM monthly statistical bulletin for June 1997 shows.

The bulletin points out that last month's trading volume of JD37.79 million was the highest figure since December 1996 when the volume stood at JD46.35 million. The monthly average trading was around JD12.19 million during the first four months of this year before rising to JD24.34 million in May and then to JD37.79 in June.

Of the JD110.90 million, total during the first half of 1997, JD54.62 million was the volume of trading by non-Jordanians who bought shares valued at JD44.28 million and sold the value of JD10.34 million.

The trading of non-Jordanians was mainly conducted during the past two months as buying amounted to JD11.63 million and JD20.09 million in May and June respectively. Selling during the two months mentioned was JD1.04 million and JD1.77 million respectively.

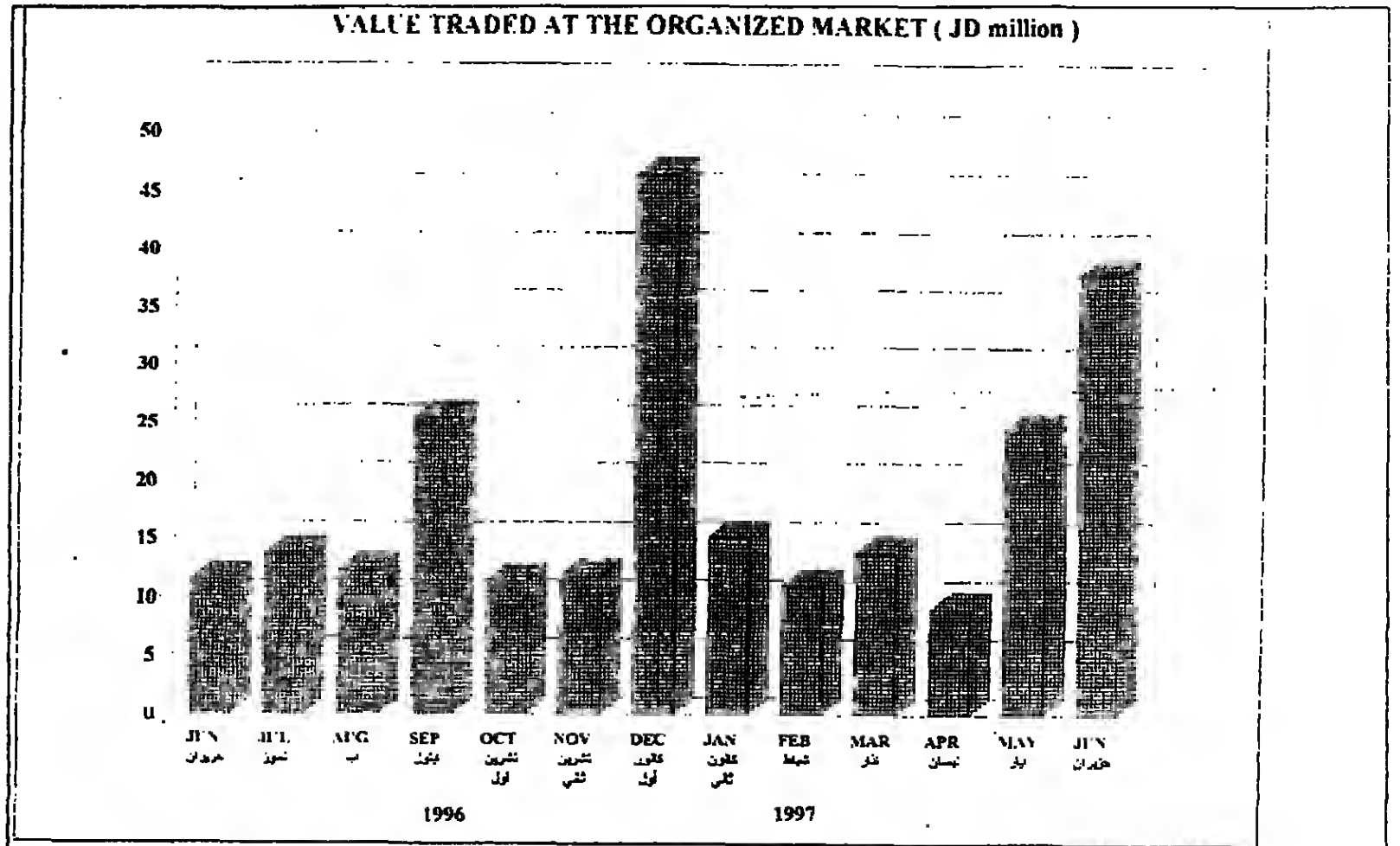
In terms of the number of shares traded, the total was 41.06 million shares, lower than the total of 44.44 million shares during the first half of 1996. The average during the first four months of this year was 5.09 million shares before the number increased to 8.11 million shares in May and then to 12.59 million shares in June.

The number of contracts were lower during the first six months of 1997 as they totalled 45,540 contracts compared to 58,821 during the same period of 1996.

The number of contracts executed during the past six months totalled 10,933 (15,379 contracts during the first six months of 1996).

Banking and finance sector

In the banking and finance sector, total trading amounted to JD50.45 million, 34.2 per cent higher than the



JD37.59 million registered between January and June of last year. During the whole of 1996, trading in the banking and finance sector amounted to JD83.10 million.

The average monthly trading during the first four months of 1997 was JD5.62 million but the volume increased to JD7.56 million in May before shooting up to JD20 million in June. This figure is the highest monthly amount since July 1995, the earliest date covered in the latest AFM monthly bulletin.

In terms of the number of shares, the total was lower during the first six months of 1997 as it stood at 14.52 million shares compared to 15.20 million shares. At JD6.55 million shares, June 1997 was the month with the highest number of shares traded since July 1995 as explained above.

The number of contracts executed during the past six months totalled 10,933 (15,379 contracts during the first six months of 1996).

Industrial sector

Total trading in the industrial sector amount-

ed to JD48.11 million during the first six months of 1997, 39.65 per cent higher than the JD34.45 million total recorded during the same period of 1996. During the whole of last year, the volume of trading in the industrial sector was JD82.04 million.

The average monthly trading during the first four months of this year was about JD4.47 million but the volume shot up to JD14.80 million in May and continued rising to JD15.42 million in June. The June figure was the highest monthly amount since July 1995, the earliest date covered in the bulletin.

In terms of the number of shares, the figures during the first six months of 1997 and 1996 were not very wide as the numbers were 20.29 million shares and 19.83 million shares respectively. The number of contracts were 26,237 (22,930 in '96).

Services sector

The volume of trade in the services sector ranked third with a JD10.41 million total, down from the JD15.66 million total during the six-month period of

1996. The number of shares was lower in 1997 as the total stood at 5.50 million shares (8.57 million shares) and so was the number of contracts which totalled 7,999 (10,031 in 1996).

Insurance sector

The least active sector of insurance had a total volume of trading of JD1.93 million during the first half of this year compared to JD2.34 million during the same period of 1996. Number of shares and number of contracts were 0.75 million (0.83 million shares) and 371 contracts (482 contracts).

Price index

The general price index weighted by market capitalisation was 153.2 points at the beginning of this year compared to 154.5 points at the beginning of 1996. At the end of June 1997 the index closed at 158.7 points compared with a 141.4 points closing at the end of June 1996.

Parallel market

At the parallel markets the volume of trading during the first six

months of this year totalled JD25.05 million compared to JD14.82 million during the same period of 1996. This 69 per cent increase in the volume of trading was also reflected in the total number of shares traded which increased by 92 per cent from 20.98 million shares during the first six months from 1996 to 40.32 million shares during the same period of this year.

The number of contracts rose also from 19,362 contracts or 20,934 contracts. Of the total volume of trading, JD16.37 million were in industrial shares and JD8.68 million were in shares of services sector. Also, 27.15 million were industrial shares and the remaining 13.17 million were services shares. There are insurance companies in the parallel market.

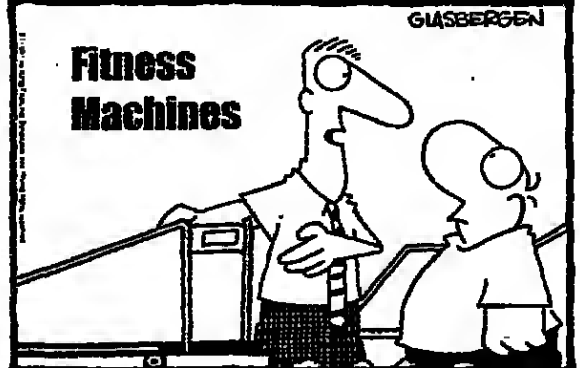
Another drop was witnessed in the insurance sector as the price index fell from an opening of 120.0 points to 113.3 points at the end of June. The decline in 1996 was from 129.9 points to 125.6 points.

Building For Rent in Shmeisani

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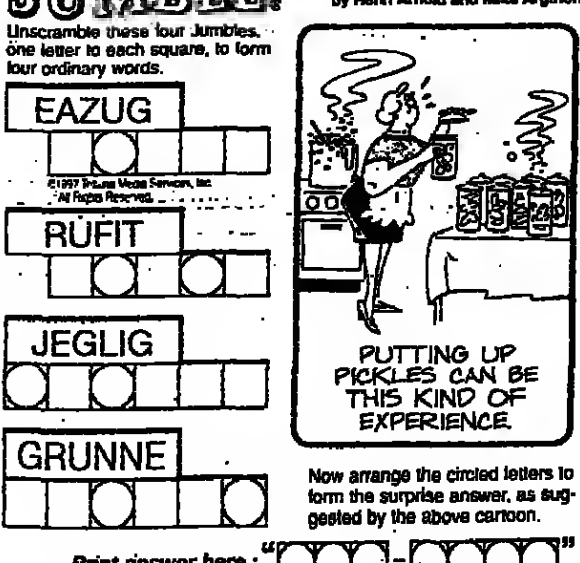
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WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Johnson shrugs off complaints to win opening 400m heat

ATHENS (AFP) — Double Olympic champion Michael Johnson shrugs off grumbles from fellow athletes about the rule change that allowed him to compete at the World Championships here to cruise through his opening 400m heat on Sunday morning.

As the Texan prepared for his heat teammate Tyree Washington made no secret about his feelings after successfully qualifying for the second round.

"It is completely unfair he is here. It is nothing but politics and there are plenty of athletes here just as unhappy," said the 20-year-old from Los Angeles.

But ill feeling or not Michael Johnson showed no signs of letting it get to him, strolling through the first round in a leisurely 45.66secs.

Johnson eased up 50 metres from the finish, determined not to extend himself more than necessary.

"I'm real calm," declared the 29-year-old Texan afterwards.

"It has been a very frustrating season and I just glad that I'm now healthy," he added.

Injury had stopped Johnson from competing in the U.S. trials and a place in the American team for the World Championships, until International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) President Primo Nebiolo pushed through the wild card rule, guaranteeing a place for defending champions.

Britain's Jamie Baulch, who's selection over team captain Roger Black caused an uproar, justified his selection by going through to the second round by winning his heat in 45.85 seconds.

World indoor 400 metre champion Sunday Bada of Nigeria looked anything but a champion, finishing third in his heat, well adrift of American Jerome Young and Britain's Mark Richardson.

Andrew Pettigrew booked America's fourth second

round spot with a solid opening run of 45.67secs.

Olympic and world javelin champion Jan Zelezny of Czech Republic won the qualifying round of his battle against England's Steve Backley and local hero Kostas Gatsioudis.

The 31-year-old world record holder won the morning's qualifying with a throw of 83.66 to gain a psychological advantage over his two main rivals before Tuesday's finals.

The 28-year-old Backley had a less than impressive start, failing to reach the qualifying distance of 83m and instead going through as one of the top 12 throwers with 81.40m.

Gatsioudis, whom Backley says he fears more than Zelezny, threw 83.32 metres. Germany's Boris Henry also threw over 83meters with an 83.42m effort.

Cuba's Ivan Pedroso began the defence of his World Championship long jump title by easily heading the morning's qualifying round.

The 24-year-old, who has the best four jumps this year, cleared 8.11m on his second attempt, to make the final.

The 1995 silver medallist James Beckford of Jamaica failed to clear the qualifying distance of 8.05m but went through comfortably as one of the top 12 with his jump of 8.03m.

The 22-year-old is one of the first athletes to exploit the International Amateur Athletics Federation's (IAAF) decision to end the three month ban for athletes caught taking stimulants.

Last week the IAAF announced at their congress that athletes would only get a public warning for the first offence and a ban if caught a second time.

Beckford tested positive in Paris in June and was half-way through his suspension but the change of rules allowed him to compete here.

In the heptathlon Germany's Sabine Braun was in front after two



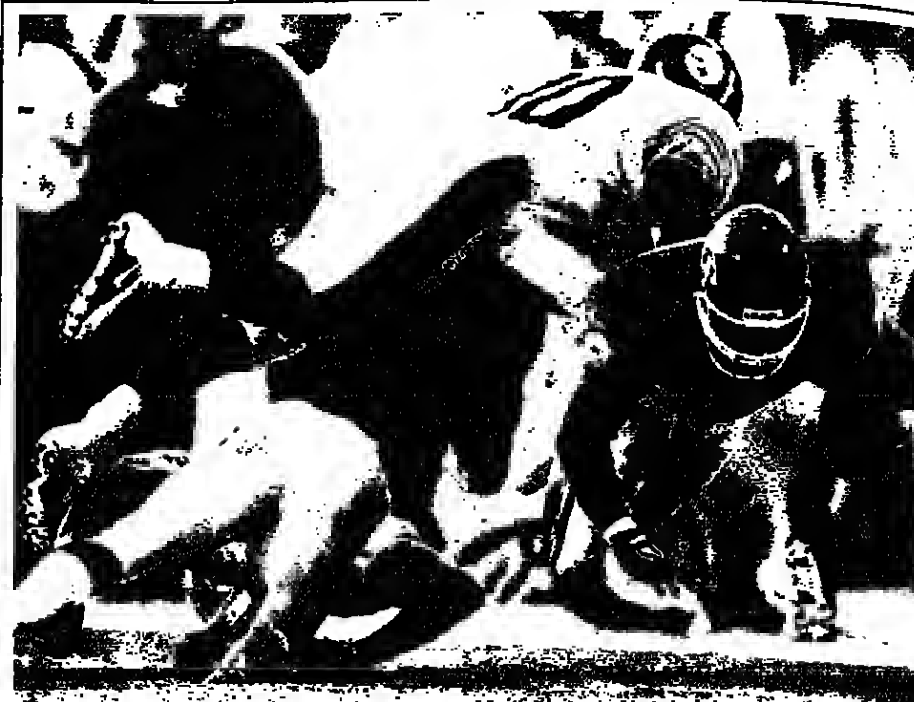
Michael Johnson of the United States runs during his 1st round heat of the men's 400 metres event at the 6th IAAF World Athletics Championships. Johnson clocked a time of 45.66 seconds and advanced to the next round (Reuters photo)

events, leading Britain's Olympic bronze medallist Denise Lewis 2206 points to 2089.

Lewis made a faltering start to her bid for heptathlon gold when the 24-year-old looked set for an impressive time in the 100m hurdles until she clattered through the seventh barrier and slipped to fourth place.



Ivan Pedroso of Cuba jumps during the qualification round for the men's long jump event at the 6th IAAF World Athletics Championships August 3. Pedroso jumped 8.11 metres and qualified for the final (Reuters photo)



Kansas City Chiefs running back J.J. Smith dives for the first down marker while avoiding the hit of Pittsburgh Steelers cornerbacks Chad Scott (top) and Donnell Woolford (lower left) in the second quarter of their August 2 exhibition game in Kansas City (Reuters photo)

Seles stops Coetzer to reach final against Hingis

CARLSBAD, California (R) — Second seed Monica Seles hammered out a 6-3 6-4 victory over stubborn South African Amanda Coetzer Saturday to reach the final of the Toshiba Tennis Classic and a showdown with top-ranked Martina Hingis.

The 16-year-old Swiss sensation, who has been dominating the women's game as Seles did earlier in the decade, roared into her 10th final in as many tournaments earlier Saturday by destroying sixth seed Mary Pierce.

Hingis played a near flawless match and even unleashed seven aces for a 6-0 6-2 49-minute thumping of Pierce in a rematch of the Australian Open final.

"I played so good. I almost didn't make one error," said a delighted Hingis after moving within one win of her ninth title of the year.

Seles, who reached her fourth final but is still looking for her first title of the year, raised her game enough to take out the third-seeded Coetzer in straight sets. But she knows she will have to turn it up a

lot higher Sunday.

"It was good tennis but not the calibre to win against Martina," Seles said. "If I make a lot of errors I have zero chances because she's so consistent."

With the top seed's gaudy 53-1 1997 match record and the Wimbledon and Australian Open titles under her belt, Seles has a pretty good idea where Hingis is mentally when she takes the court these days.

"Steffi (Graf) was in the zone. I was in the zone and now she's there," Seles said of Hingis.

"She's playing very confident and some great tennis. She's got both things going for her and her record is unbelievable. I'm going to have to play some great tennis (to beat her)."

"Maybe I can rise up to the occasion like some players do when they play me."

Seles captured the opening set from Coetzer with the help of a crucial service break in the eighth game.

The sixth-ranked South African had visions of forcing a third set after going up a break with a 3-1 lead

in the second. But Seles dug down and ran off five of the last six games to end the contest.

"I tried to cut down on my errors. It was all up to me and I did that," said Seles, who is sure to make a better showing against Hingis than Pierce.

Pierce had been in such good form in her quarter-final win over French compatriot Sandrine Testud Friday that it seemed she might be able to give Hingis a contest. But that challenge never materialised with Pierce winning just eight points in the shockingly brief first set.

"This match to me wasn't a match," Pierce said.

"When you lose the first set 6-0 in 18 minutes, you know nothing happened. It was just mistake, next point."

But the next point wasn't much better for Pierce, who double-faulted away the opening game of the second set as the rout continued to its inevitable conclusion.

"Mary, she was trying but she played a very risky match," Hingis said, "and I played a great match."

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♥ Q
♦ AKQ9642
♣ KJ8

WEST
♠ J96432
♥ 1099
♦ 9
♣ 765

EAST
♠ AKS
♥ KJ65
♦ J1073
♣ 43

SOUTH
♠ Q10
♥ A7432
♦ 85
♣ AQ1092

The bidding:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♣ Pass
2♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
3♣ Pass 3♣ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♣

How do you tackle the diamond suit in this hand? It depends not on the suit itself, but on what is required for the contract as a whole.

Note how slowly South conducted the auction. Despite having a sound opening bid facing a partner who opened, South took pains to describe the holding accurately below game level, thereby enabling

the partnership to reach their best spot while leaving open the option of playing in a partscore on a real misfit.

West leads a heart against five clubs. Obviously, you are going to need discards on diamonds — you do not have the entries to ruff two or three hearts on the table. What is your first priority?

Before you can plan the play, you need to determine how trumps split. A successful campaign has to be designed to cater to both 3-2 and 4-1 trump divisions.

The only entries to dummy are in trumps, so if you draw all the outstanding fangs, you are going to have to rely on diamonds being 3-2. Cash the ace of clubs and continue with a club to the king. If trumps are 3-2, you must draw two more rounds since you cannot run diamonds while a defender still has a trump. You will then need a 3-2 diamond division to get home.

But what if clubs are 3-2? Now you can afford to guard against a possible 4-1 diamond break. Leave the last trump out, cash the ace of diamonds and ruff a diamond high. Now you can return to dummy with the jack of trumps to run the suit.

The moral: Combining your chances in two suits is better than relying on one alone.

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- Offers must be submitted at the company's head office not later than 12:00 hrs of Sunday 28.8.1997.

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PHENOMENON

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

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Julia Roberts ...in

MICHAEL COLLINS

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Wihdat play 1st Premier League match today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's soccer champions Al Wihdat play their first Premier League match of the season Monday when they meet Al Baqaa in a match which was postponed since June and further delayed by the Pan-Arab Games.

Controversy had followed Al Wihdat's withdrawal from their match against Al Baqaa early in the 1997 soccer season when the players failed to show up insisting that they would pull out of all events because of a change in the distribution of ticket sales revenues by the Jordan Soccer Federation (JSF).

Al Wihdat, however, ended their boycott of the soccer events when the JSF announced the cancelling of their decision and brought back the old formula regarding revenues, which allocate 35 per cent to the two clubs contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 25 per cent to the JSF and 5 per cent to the First and Second Division clubs.

The formula rejected by Al Wihdat had 28 per cent

to the clubs which are contesting the match, 35 per cent to be split between the remaining eight clubs in Premier League, 32 per cent to the JSF while the remaining 5 per cent were to be given to First and Second Divisions.

The JSF was hit by another controversy early in the season when Jordan Cup runner-up Al Faisali refused to play the final match of the Jordanian Shield against Al Wihdat, which was scheduled to be held on May 26 unless foreign referees were enlisted.

While JSF regulations bar foreign referees from officiating local matches, Al

Wihdat did not object to Faisali's demand. But the JSF did not reach a decision, which led to the indefinite postponement of the match and hence to Al Wihdat's decision to announce themselves as winners of the match according to JSF rules stipulating that any club refusing to play a final match be considered a loser with a 3-0 result.

However, Al Wihdat later accepted to play the final while Al Faisali insisted on their demand to enlist foreign referees and the Shield final will now be held following Al Wihdat's return from the Arab Cup Winners' Cup in Cairo August 16-25.

STANDINGS

Team	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pts
Ramtha	2	1	0	4	0	7
Hassan	2	1	0	4	2	7
Jazireh	2	0	1	5	2	6
Ahli	1	1	1	4	4	4
Faisali	1	1	0	7	4	4
Baqaa	1	0	1	5	3	3
Qadissieh	1	0	2	3	7	3
Wihdat	0	1	0	1	1	1
Karmel	0	1	2	0	5	1
S.Hussein	0	0	3	0	5	0

- Al Wihdat have two postponed matches against Baqaa and Faisali

Blanc marks return to France with 2 goals

PARIS (R) — France defender Laurent Blanc, newly signed from Barcelona, scored twice in six minutes on his debut as Marseille came from behind to beat Le Havre 3-1 at home in the French First Division on Saturday.

Paris St Germain also relied on new signings Florian Maurice and Marco Simone for their first goal in a 2-0 home win over promoted Chateauroux, the France striker netting a ball from the Italian in the 49th minute.

Both sides, aspirants to the title held by Monaco, made a better start to the season than the champions who went down 1-0 at Bordeaux on Friday.

Lens, who beat 1996 champions Auxerre 3-0 at home, have the best record of the opening weekend of the season. Marseille and Guingamp, 3-1 winners against Cannes with two goals from striker Lionel Rouxel, are joint second.



Top seed Michael Chang (left) of the United States stares at the line after misplaying a shot, during his semi-final match against Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten (right) who celebrates his victory at the Du Maurier Canadian Open in Montreal after winning the match 6-3, 6-1 to advance to the final (Reuters photo)

Woodruff and Kuerten reach Canadian Open final

MONTREAL (R) — Unseeded American Chris Woodruff's dream run reached the final of the Canadian Open after he knocked out his fourth seeded player of the week with a semifinal victory over Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov Saturday.

The 57th-ranked former U.S. Collegiate champion put himself in position to claim his first career title with a hard-fought 5-7 7-5 6-3 victory over fourth-seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov.

"It's great to be a giant-killer, especially if the game is close and the crowd gets behind you," said Woodruff, who also ousted 16th seed Jan Siemerink, second seed Goran Ivanisevic and seventh seed Mark Philippoussis en route to the final, where he will face French open champion Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil.

In the day's other upset, the sixth-seeded Kuerten thoroughly outplayed top seed Michael Chang for a lopsided 6-3 6-1 victory.

"He was hitting pretty clean off the ground and serving quite well," Chang said. "I really didn't have a chance to get into the match."

The victory over Chang guaranteed the 20-year-old from the seaside city of Florianopolis a spot in the top 10 in the next ATP tour rankings, making him the first Brazilian to reach such lofty heights.

"It would be great even if 20 or 30

other Brazilians had been in the top 10," Kuerten said. "After all the work I did, after all the travelling, I'm getting my bonus, my paycheck."

Woodruff's run looked like it might come to an end more than once Saturday.

He blew his chance to take the first set when his serve deserted him with a 5-3 lead. Unable to close out the set, Woodruff allowed Kafelnikov to win four successive games to claim the opener.

Both players held serve until the 11th game of the tight second set when Woodruff finally converted his fifth break point of the game with a spectacular backhand volley winner.

After managing to force a third set, Woodruff raised his level of play, especially on the critical points.

He scored the lone break of the set for a 4-2 lead and emphatically solidified the advantage by hitting four consecutive aces to reach 5-2 — with a little help from basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

"It's weird the way my mind works out there," admitted the Tennessee native, who also closed out the match with an ace.

"I hit the first ace and I started thinking about Michael Jordan. When the game is on the line, Jordan takes over. When I break serve in a big match like this, I think about how someone like

Jordan would take over the game. So I step up to the line and try to give myself positive thoughts like that."

Whatever the strategy, it worked. "It was my best performance of the tournament and I didn't win the match," Kafelnikov said. "He definitely deserved to win. He played better than I did."

And Kuerten played way better than World No. 2 Chang, the highest-ranked player the Brazilian had ever beaten.

Following a short rain delay with the score at 2-2 in the first set, Kuerten went on a rampage of spectacular shotmaking that overwhelmed Chang.

He rocketed ground strokes from the baseline that had the 25-year-old veteran scrambling in vain to reach them.

Kuerten also made 69 per cent of his first serves and won 79 per cent of the points when the first serve was good.

"When a player is in that kind of groove, you've got to attack him a little bit and give him a smaller target to hit to. I just wasn't able to do that enough," Chang said.

The pro-Kuerten crowd seemed amazed by the potency and dominance of the colourful Brazilian.

"I hope I can play like that every day," Kuerten said. "but I think it's more just one night when you can be like that."

Injured Shearer promises World Cup goals

LONDON (R) — Injured England striker Alan Shearer, who could be sidelined until the new year, has pledged to return for club and country more deadly than ever.

"When I was lying in hospital recovering from my operation this week I made myself a couple of promises," the Newcastle player told the news of the world newspaper, who photographed him lying on a couch with his right leg in plaster.

"I'll be back for Newcastle for their bid to win something," Shearer declared.

"And I'll be raring to go for England next summer, when I intend to finish top of the goal charts at the World Cup finals, just as I did in Euro 96."

Shearer tore ligaments in his right ankle in the last minute of a pre-season friendly match against Chelsea last week and underwent an operation in Newcastle last Sunday.

The injury means the England captain will miss his country's World Cup qualifier against Moldova on September 10 and against Italy in Rome on October 11.

Shearer told the tabloid newspaper that he realised he would be out of action until early next year and said that he was not setting himself any specific target dates.

The paper said he had been told by doctors not to put any weight on his right leg for six weeks.

Despite the long layoff, he remained positive about the future and said his scoring targets were still achievable.

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St. Louis Cardinals' shortstop Royce Chytun attempts to tag Phillies Kevin Stocker as he successfully steals second base during the ninth inning. The Cardinals won 2-1 (Reuters photo)

Major League Results

National League			
Cincinnati	5	San Francisco	1
Pittsburgh	6	Colorado	5
Houston	6	New York	0
St. Louis	2	Philadelphia	1
Chicago	5	Los Angeles	1
Atlanta	4	Florida	2
Montreal	6	San Diego	0
American League			
Kansas City	10	Boston	3
Minnesota	5	New York	4
Baltimore	13	Oakland	3
Detroit	8	Toronto	7
Seattle	14	Milwaukee	4
Cleveland	7	Texas	3
Anaheim	5	Chicago	2

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Police suspect the suspects were dropped by a helicopter on Monday morning, which was down in the clearing. "We're busy" is the police spokesman. The reported the janitor in Jerusalem.